Master *of* Public Policy

Handbook 2026–2027

Ashank Desai
Centre *for* Policy Studies
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Insight ♦ Dialogue ♦ Impact

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List of Abbreviations

ADCPS	:	Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies
AI	:	Artificial Intelligence
AL	:	Additional Learning
APS	:	Annual Progress Seminar
AU	:	Audit
CPI	:	Cumulative Performance Index
CSIR	:	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
DPGC	:	Department Postgraduate Committee
DST	:	Department of Science & Technology
ETD	:	Electronic Thesis and Dissertation
FA	:	Fellowship Award
FAP	:	Financial Aid Programme
GATE	:	Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
HCU	:	Hostels Coordinating Unit
ICC	:	Internal Complaints Committee
IEC	:	Institute Ethics Committee
IE	:	Institute Elective
IIT	:	Indian Institute of Technology
IR	:	International Relations
JRF	:	Junior Research Fellowship
L-T-P-C	:	Lecture-Tutorial-Practical-Credit
MHRD	:	Ministry of Human Resource Development
MoU	:	Memorandum of Understanding
MPP	:	Master of Public Policy
MR	:	Master's Rule
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organisation
PGPC	:	Postgraduate Programme Committee
PhD	:	Doctor of Philosophy
PP/NP	:	Pass/Non-Pass
PAF	:	Performing Arts Festival
R&D	:	Research and Development
RP	:	Research Proposal
SAC	:	Student Affairs Council
SC/ST	:	Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes
SF	:	Self-Financed
SPI	:	Semester Performance Index
STS	:	Science, Technology, and Society
SW	:	Sponsored (Category)
TA	:	Teaching Assistant
TA/DA	:	Travel Allowance/Dearness Allowance
TAP/RAP	:	Teaching Assistantship Project/Research Assistantship Project
TASET	:	Teaching Assistant Skill Enhancement & Training
UGC	:	University Grants Commission

Introduction

1.1. Message from the Head

Welcome to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS).

As you may be aware, Policy Studies is a relatively nascent discipline in India. Given the increasing complexities of the economy, international relations, technology, and governance, it is imperative for the discipline to take firm roots in our polity and society. Realising the academic community's important role in this regard, the Centre was set up in 2016 to provide a fillip to the study of Public Policy, with insightful and actionable thought leadership.

We focus on fostering a robust academic environment that nurtures scholarly inquiry and innovation. Our MPP programme started in 2019 and you are now (as the eighth Master's cohort) part of this vibrant and growing community of scholars dedicated to critically engaging with the complex world of public policy. At ADCPS, we value interdisciplinarity, rigour, and real-world relevance, principles that shape our teaching, research, and student culture.

On behalf of all faculty members and the wider ADCPS community, I extend a hearty welcome. Over the next two years, you will be challenged to think analytically, act ethically, and contribute meaningfully. Our faculty, staff, and the student cohort are here to support your academic journey and professional aspirations. We look forward to learning from your unique experiences and perspectives as you help us shape policy thinking in India and beyond.

Wishing you a fulfilling and transformative time at ADCPS.

Vinish Kathuria
Professor and Head
Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

1.2. Vision

To become a centre of excellence that facilitates evidence-informed and inclusive public policy.

1.3. Mission

To encourage a sustained dialogue between academia and other policy stakeholders in order to promote evidence informed and inclusive policy making and analysis; and create capacity for policy studies in the country.

1.4. Public Policy at IIT Bombay

The Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay offers a rigorous and interdisciplinary environment for advanced education and research in public policy. Through its Master of Public Policy (MPP) and Doctoral (PhD) programmes, the Centre engages with complex policy problems by drawing on integrated perspectives from the fields of Social Science, Law, Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Its academic and research focus is organised around six core thematic areas: (i) **Digital Society & Governance**, (ii) **Industrial and Economic Policy**, (iii) **Social Policy (Education, Ageing, Identity)**, (iv) **Technology & Policy**, (v) **Urban Policy**, and (vi) **Water, Sanitation, Energy, Climate Change**.

Embedded within one of India's premier institutions, ADCPS equips scholars with strong analytical capabilities, methodological foundations, and applied experience to contribute meaningfully to policy research, governance, and institutional practice. The programme is committed to fostering thoughtful, evidence-informed, and contextually grounded approaches to public decision-making in India and globally.

The Institute and its Legacy

2.1. About the Institute

IIT Bombay, established in 1958, is one of India's most respected institutions for higher education and research. Created through a national initiative with early support from UNESCO and the former USSR, the institute was declared an *Institute of National Importance* under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.

The residential campus spans over 500 acres nestled in Powai between Vihar and Powai lakes and adjacent to the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, offering a lush green and tranquil environment conducive for focused academic pursuit and fulfilling campus life. The institute offers a comprehensive residential experience, with well-equipped hostels, dining halls, sports complexes, and recreational amenities.

Academically, IIT Bombay attracts some of the brightest students in the country and maintains high standards through its distinguished faculty, many of whom are recipients of national honours. In addition to undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes, the institute is a leader in offering innovative continuing education, short-term certificate courses, and distance learning programmes. At present, IIT Bombay comprises 17 academic departments, eight degree awarding centres which includes ADCPS, threeschools including Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management (SJMSOM), IDC School of Design, and Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship, and over 35 specialised research centres, supporting together over 13,000 students and 1000+ faculty across engineering, sciences, humanities, social science, management, design, and policy.

What sets IIT Bombay apart is not only its disciplinary strength but also its interdisciplinary depth. Faculties and research centres routinely collaborate across domains, bringing together insights from technology, social science, design, and management. Schools/Centres like the SJMSOM, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas (C-TARA), ADCPS, IDC School of Design, and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) make this convergence possible and productive.

The institute combines rigorous academics with vibrant extra-curriculars boasting active student bodies like the Gymkhana, cultural festivals such as Mood Indigo, flagship technology events like TechFest, sports complexes, and rich club activities. It also features cutting-edge research infrastructure, a central library, and extensive sports and student-activity facilities, nurturing a holistic learning ecosystem. Designated as an *Institution of Eminence* in 2018, IIT Bombay

excels in industry collaborations, international exchange, leadership in innovation, development of future-ready professionals, and enjoys a legacy of its prominent global footprint.

2.2. About the Centre

The **Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)** at IIT Bombay was established in 2016 to advance rigorous research, interdisciplinary teaching, and public engagement in the field of public policy. Conceived as a centre for research, education, training, and practice, its founding responds to the growing national and global demand for policy professionals capable of navigating the complex intersections of governance, technology, economy, and equity in a deeply interconnected world.

The Centre began its academic journey with the launch of its PhD in Public Policy programme in 2017, followed by the Master of Public Policy (MPP) in 2019. In 2021, it was renamed as **Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS)** in honour of Mr Ashank Desai, an IIT Bombay alumnus and philanthropist, whose generous support has helped strengthen the Centre's vision and capacity. Both programmes aim to develop public policy professionals and scholars who combine analytical depth with contextual sensitivity, capable of leading and serving across government, civil society, academia, multilateral organisations, and industry.

ADCPS recognises that public policy today extends well beyond statecraft and bureaucracy; it shapes and is shaped by civil society, the private sector, and academic institutions. The Centre therefore equips students with the tools to engage across diverse fields and real-world contexts, fostering the ability to adapt, interpret, and influence policy in areas such as health, education, technology, urban development, labour, and sustainability. These programmes also leverage IIT Bombay's broader institutional strengths to establish ADCPS as a national hub for public policy expertise that bridges social sciences, governance, and technological innovation.

Embedded within one of India's premier institutes of science and technology, ADCPS is uniquely positioned to explore public policy at this interdisciplinary nexus. Its faculty bring academic training from globally reputed institutions and expertise spanning economics, law, engineering, environment studies, sociology, urban studies, political science, and digital cultures. Their research covers themes such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and labour, platform economies, environmental governance, water policy, education, housing, digital infrastructure, and public health thereby generating impactful scholarship with practical relevance. See **Appendix 2.2** for the full faculty list and their areas of research.

ADCPS structures its research and teaching around six core thematic areas:

(i) **Digital Society & Governance**, investigating the intersections of physical and digital spaces through research on infrastructure, platform design, regulation, information commons, and the evolving roles of media, social media, and digital governance;

(ii) **Industrial and Economic Policy**, analysing the impact of economic reforms, foreign direct investment, and regulatory governance on industrial productivity, technology transfer, and sustainable manufacturing;

(iii) **Social Policy (Education, Ageing, Identity)**, foregrounding intersecting inequalities across gender, caste, religion, region, sexuality, age, and political identity and advocating more inclusive and accountable policy frameworks;

(iv) **Technology & Policy**, examining how technological systems and public policy co-evolve, across domains such as agriculture, healthcare, urban systems, public opinion, and surveillance;

(v) **Urban Policy**, addressing challenges of infrastructure, housing, employment, and basic services in India's rapidly urbanising landscape, while informing policies for inclusive, sustainable, and livable cities;

(vi) **Water, Sanitation, Energy, Climate Change**, re-positioning environmental concerns as gateways to broader cross-sectoral policy questions, and promoting interdisciplinary approaches grounded in care, inclusion, and sustainability.

These research themes are supported by an active engagement with engineering, design, political theory, legal reasoning, and institutional economics, equipping students to critically examine public issues and design grounded solutions. Graduates of ADCPS are envisioned to go on to shape policy in government, multilateral institutions, NGOs, academia, and the private sector, bringing with them a combination of analytical rigour, ethical clarity, and contextual sensitivity.

The Centre's **Advisory Board** includes prominent thought leaders such as Ashank Desai, Kaushik Basu, Arun Maira, Yamini Aiyar, and Harish Hande, who guide its long-term priorities (see **Appendix 2.1**). Beyond the classroom, ADCPS sustains a vibrant public presence through seminars, workshops, conferences, Policy Talks, Policy Dialogues, Policy Briefs, Working Paper Series, Policy Roundtables, and its Talking Policy blog series. An elected student body plays a proactive role in shaping student life at the Centre, coordinating communication, placements, cultural and sports events, and other student-led initiatives (see **Appendix 2.4**).

As ADCPS welcomes the **eighth cohort** of its MPP programme in 2026, it continues to grow as a platform where academic rigour meets public relevance, committed to nurturing policy professionals and scholars who are as attentive to democratic values as they are to structural realities and global transformations.

2.3. Programmes Offered

ADCPS currently offers two flagship academic programmes:

Master of Public Policy (MPP): A two-year interdisciplinary postgraduate programme designed to equip students with analytical, methodological, and conceptual tools necessary for policy design, implementation, and evaluation. The MPP blends theoretical grounding with practical training, enabling graduates to engage effectively across government, civil society, industry, international organisations, and academia.

PhD in Public Policy: A research-intensive doctoral programme aimed at fostering scholarship that addresses pressing policy questions with rigour and contextual sensitivity. The programme welcomes scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and supports critical inquiry across a wide range of policy domains.

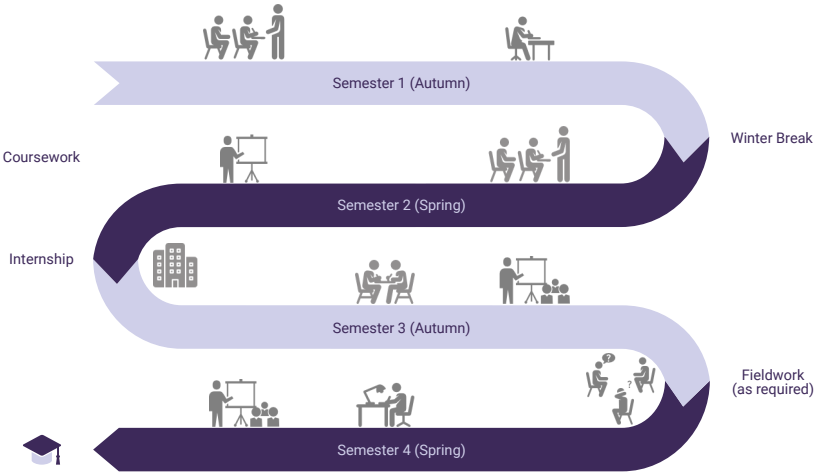
Both programmes draw on IIT Bombay's strengths in science, technology, and the social sciences, offering a unique interdisciplinary environment for emerging policy professionals and researchers.

Link to the ADCPS website: https://www.cps.iitb.ac.in

MPP Programme Overview

Master of Public Policy (MPP) at the ADCPS, IIT Bombay is a two-year, full-time residential postgraduate programme designed to equip students with the strong conceptual foundations, analytical skills, practical tools, and interdisciplinary perspectives to engage meaningfully with today's complex policy challenges. The programme aims to produce professionals who are not only intellectually rigorous but also attuned to real-world governance and public interest. Students are trained to take up roles in government, consulting, international organisations, think tanks, civil society, and academia, among others [1].

3.1. Journey through the MPP Programme



The Institute follows a credit-based semester system with two regular terms each year. The **Autumn Semester (Semester 1 & 3)** runs from July to November, and the **Spring Semester (Semester 2 & 4)** runs from January to April.

Semesters 1 and 2 emphasise theoretical grounding through core courses in public policy theory, and research methods. Elective courses (both departmental and institute-wide) enable students to expand their disciplinary range and begin developing domain-specific expertise.

In Semester 2, students take a 4-credit seminar course that allows exploration of a policy topic of interest. Guided by a faculty supervisor, students conduct

[1] All references to the latest Master's Rulebook are cited in the handbook as "Refer: MR xx." The complete rulebook is available at: https://acad.iitb.ac.in/sites/default/files/M.Tech_.%20MPP.%20M.Des_.%20MBA%20Rules_0.pdf

literature reviews and frame research questions, culminating in a group presentation. The seminar often lays the groundwork for MPP Thesis 1 and helps identify relevant internship opportunities just after the semester. *Tip: Think of the Seminar as a mini project where you develop a term paper with a detailed literature review that can evolve into your MPP dissertation.*

During the summer break between Semester 2 and 3, students undertake an **8-week internship[2] (20 credits)** aligned with their research interests, which is jointly planned by the student and their faculty supervisor. Students are expected to regularly update their supervisors and submit a detailed report. On returning to campus, students must present their internship experience and demonstrate how it contributed to shaping their MPP dissertation. The report must be submitted at least one week before the presentation, which is evaluated by faculty and representatives from the host organisation.

In Semester 3, soon after the internship presentation, students finalise their research topic in consultation with a faculty supervisor. This is the beginning of **MPP Thesis 1**. The first phase of MPP Thesis primarily focuses on developing an in-depth understanding of the chosen policy field and sets the ground for empirical research. A comprehensive review of literature, theoretical framework, research question and methodology are the major components of Thesis 1 along with a fieldwork plan proposed for MPP Thesis 2. Students are also encouraged to take skill-based and competency-driven electives during this semester. During the winter break, students are expected to do their fieldwork and start analysis.

In Semester 4, students continue with their **MPP Thesis 2** which involves conducting empirical research, analysis, and writing of the final thesis and policy brief. The draft proposal for MPP Thesis 2 shall take place in the month of February. Students shall present the draft and final submissions to internal and external reviewers as per the department scheduled timeline for the final semester.

3.2. Course Credit Structure and Curriculum

The MPP curriculum is structured across four semesters, with a balance between theoretical coursework, field engagement, and intensive research. The programme emphasises a progressive build-up of conceptual, analytical, and empirical competencies for which several meticulously designed courses are offered. Full list of courses can be accessed here: https://portal.iitb.ac.in/asc/Courses

[2] Travel and Dearness Allowance (TA/DA) for internships may be available only to selected admission categories such as TAs as per Institute norms. Please refer to the latest IIT Bombay rules for detailed eligibility and policy.

3.2.1. What are Course Credits?

Credits are determined by weekly contact hours i.e. each weekly hour of Lecture (L) or Tutorial (T) counts as 2 credits, and each weekly hour of Practical (P) counts as 1 credit. For example, a course 'X' with 2 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Tutorial per week would carry [(2×2) + (1×2) + (0x1)] = 6 credits. Courses are typically denoted in 'L-T-P-C' format; hence, course 'X' would be listed as '2-1-0-6' indicating weekly 2 hours of Lecture, 1 hour of Tutorial, 0 hours of Practical, and a total of 6 credits. In simple terms, 1 credit means 7 contact-hours (teaching hours).

3.2.2. What are the Different Types of Courses while Registering?

Mandatory Credit Courses	
Core Courses	Foundational and mandatory courses required by the Centre, covering theoretical, methodological, and contextual bases of public policy.
Seminar Course (PS 694)	Student-led exploration of a policy topic under faculty supervision, forming a base for the theses.
Internship (PS 621)	An 8-week internship undertaken during the semester break between semester 2 and 3, aligned with the student's research interest and intended to support their MPP thesis work. Evaluation includes a presentation and written report.
Thesis 1 (PS 796)	MPP Thesis 1 (18 credits): Development of research design, questions, and methodology. Marks a formal beginning of the thesis (Semester 3).
Thesis 2 (PS 798)	MPP Thesis 2 (40 Credits): Fully dedicated to empirical research, data collection, analysis, and final writing. Students also prepare and present a policy brief. Evaluated by internal and external reviewers (Semester-4).

Elective Courses	
Department Electives	Courses offered by the Centre that allow students to explore specialised policy areas aligned with their interests. They are typically 6-Credit courses but also include three-credit Skill-based Courses offered by the Centre (See Appendix 3.1).
Institute Electives	Interdisciplinary courses offered by various academic units across IIT Bombay, open to all students subject to limitation that it should not be closely allied to a student's own discipline (typically interpreted that it should be offered by an academic unit other than one's own) (Refer MR 1.3).

Mandatory Non-Credit Courses (Pass/Not Pass)	
Communication Skills (PS 899)	The "Communication Skills" is a compulsory Pass/Not Pass (PP/NP) course requirement to be completed within the first two semesters. It does not count toward minimum credit requirements, but clearing it (with a PP grade) is mandatory for degree award (Refer: MR2.2A).
Gender in the Workplace (GC 101)	A compulsory core non-credit course sensitising students to gender issues and workplace ethics; administered by the Gender Cell (Refer: MR 4.12).
TASET (TA 101)	TASET program is an orientation and skill-building program to prepare Teaching Assistants (TAs) for their responsibilities and potential challenges (Refer: MR. 4.13).

Audit Grade Courses	
Audit Course (AU)	Audited courses allow exposure to a subject without formal grading and appear on the transcript with an 'AU' grade if minimum participation requirements are met, and if unmet, it is considered as dropped and does not appear on the transcript. They do not count toward credit or CPI/SPI calculations. Students may opt to audit up to two courses per semester with prior instructor approval (Refer: MR 4.3).

Additional Learning (AL) Courses	
Additional Learning (AL)	Students may take extra courses as 'Additional Learning' beyond credit requirements. These do not affect SPI/CPI but appear on the transcript with actual grades. The 'Additional Learning' tagged courses can be re-tagged only once as 'Department/ Institute Elective' and vice versa (except for Core courses, which cannot be re-tagged) (Refer: MR 4.4).

3.2.3. Tentative Semester-wise Course Distribution

Semester 1			
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Type**	**Credits**
PS 601	Public Policy Theory I	CORE	6
PS 605	Social Science Perspectives in Public Policy	CORE	6
PS 606	Public Policy in India: History, Institutions, and Practices	CORE	6
PS 610	Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods	CORE	6
	Institute Elective (as per MR 1.3)	IE	6
Total			30

Semester 2			
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Type**	**Credits**
PS 607	Public Policy Theory - II	CORE	6
PS 609	Research Methodology and Design	CORE	6
PS 633	Writing Policy	CORE	6
PS 694	Seminar	CORE	4
PS 899	Communication Skills	CORE	PP/NP
	Institute Elective (as per MR 1.3)	IE	6
	Department (PS) Elective (See Appendix 3.1)	DE	6
Total			34

Semester 3			
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Type**	**Credits**
PS 621	8-weeks internship (in the Summer between Semester II and III) and internship report (submitted in Semester III)	Internship	20
PS 796	MPP Thesis/Project 1	Thesis	18
	Only PS course (as Department Electives)	DE	24
Total			62

Semester 4			
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Type**	**Credits**
PS 798	MPP Thesis/Project 2	Thesis	40
Total			40

Total Programme Credits	166

3.2.4. Semester-wise Course Credit Distribution Snapshot

Course Code	Semester/Credits				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Core Courses	24	18	–	–	42
Department Elective	–	6	24	–	30
Institute Elective	6	6	–	–	12
Seminar	–	4	–	–	4
Internship	–	–	20	–	20
MPP Thesis	–	–	18	40	58
Communication Skills	–	PP/NP	–	–	0
Gender in the Workplace	PP/NP	–	–	–	0
Teaching Assistant Skill Enhancement & Training (TASET)	PP/NP	–	–	–	0
Total	30	34	62	40	166

3.3. Timeline for 2026-28 Cohort

Year 1 · Semester 1 · Autumn · July–Nov 2026		
Timeline	**Administrative Milestones***	**Academic Milestones**
22 July 2026 (Wed)– 24 July 2026 (Fri)	Semester Registration Window (till 03 Aug with fine)	Register for relevant courses
27July 2026 (Mon)	Autumn Semester Instruction Begins	
03 Aug 2026 (Mon)	Last date for Course Adjustment	
17 Aug 2026 (Mon)	Last date to drop any course without "W" grade	
12 Sep 2026 (Sat)– 20 Sep 2026 (Sun)	**Mid-Term Examination**	
06 Oct 2026 (Mon)	Last date to drop full-semester course with "W" grade	
Mid-Oct 2026		Identify a broad policy domain/field
Nov		Finalisation of the seminar topic
06 Nov 2026 (Fri)	Last date of Semester Instruction	
09 Nov 2026 (Mon)– 21 Nov 2026 (Sat)	**End Semester Examination**	
29 Nov 2026 (Sun)– 28 Dec 2026 (Mon)	Winter Vacation (for students)	
01 Oct 2026 (Thu)– 15 Dec 2026 (Tue)	Payment of Spring Semester Fees (till 29 Dec with fine)	

Year 1 · Semester 2 · Spring · Jan–April 2027		
Timeline	**Administrative Milestones***	**Academic Milestones**
29-Dec 2026 (Tue)– 01 Jan 2027 (Fri)	Semester Registration Window (till 11 Jan with fine)	Registration for second-semester courses
04 Jan 2027 (Mon)	Spring Semester Instruction Begins	
Early Jan 2027		Seminar course begins
11 Jan 2027 (Mon)	Last date for Course Adjustment	
25 Jan 2027 (Mon)	Last date to drop any course without "W" grade	
20 Feb 2027 (Sat)– 28 Mar 2027 (Sun)	**Mid-Term Examination**	
16 Mar 2027 (Mon)	Last date to drop full-semester course with "W" grade	
End of Mar 2027		Finalisation of internship settings and formal communication with the internship agency
16 Apr 2027 (Fri)	Last date of Semester Instruction	
19 Apr 2027 (Mon)– 01 May 2027 (Fri)	**End Semester Examination**	**Presentation of Credit Seminar**
08 May 2027 (Sat)– 15 Jul 2027 (Thu)	Summer Vacation (for students)	Summer Internship (8 weeks)
1 May 2027 (Sat)– 15 Jul 2027 (Thu)	Payment of Autumn Semester Fees (till first date of Autumn Semester 2027-28 with fine)	

Note: *Academic calendar is announced prior to the beginning of the academic year institute-wide. The full Institute Academic Calendar for the academic year 2026-27 may be accessed here: https://acad.iitb.ac.in/sites/default/files/Academic_Calendar_2026-27_FINAL.pdf

Year 2 · Semester 3 · Autumn · Jul–Nov 2027 · Tentative	
Timeline	**Milestones**
Mid-Jul 2027	Back to campus and submission of internship report
End of Jul 2027	Registration for additional skill and competency-based courses available in the third semester
Early Aug 2027	Presentation of internship report
Mid-Aug 2027	Finalisation of research topic and presentation. Writing of Thesis 1 begins.
Early Sept 2027	Work in progress presentation of Thesis 1
Mid-Oct 2027	The first draft of Thesis 1 is ready.
Early Nov 2027	The final draft of Thesis 1 is ready.
Mid-Nov 2027	Presentation of Thesis 1
Dec 2027	Preparation for Thesis 2 begins: Finalising research instruments (survey/interview schedule/observation protocol)

Year 2 · Semester 4 · Spring · Jan–Apr 2028 · Tentative	
Timeline	**Milestones**
Dec-Jan 2028	Fieldwork/data collection
Feb-Mar 2028	Analysis of data and writing of Thesis 2
End of Mar 2028	The first draft of Thesis 2 and Policy Brief is ready.
Mid-Apr 2028	Presentation of draft Thesis 2 and Policy Brief.
Mid-May 2028	Final presentation and grading of Thesis 2 and Policy Brief (Internal + External Review)
End of Jun 2028	Revision and final submission of Thesis 2 and Policy Brief
Early Jul 2028	Upload the final Thesis and Policy Brief to the IIT thesis repository.
Aug 2028	Graduation Ceremony

3.4. Ethics Clearance for Research

As per MR 10.0 of the IIT Bombay Master's Rules, students conducting research involving human participants, whether directly or indirectly, must obtain prior approval from the Institute Ethics Committee (IEC) before beginning their study. This includes interviews, surveys, fieldwork, or any data collection involving human subjects. Retrospective approval is not permitted.

IEC approval is mandatory for compliance with research ethics, institutional policy, and the requirements of most funding agencies (e.g. DST, DBT, CSIR, ICMR), and it is essential for publication in reputed journals. Students must plan their research timelines accordingly and consult their supervisors early to initiate the IEC process.

Financials & Administration

4.1. Fee Structure

MPP students at IIT Bombay are required to pay tuition and other semester-wise charges in accordance with the Institute norms. The latest fee structure is available on the official IIT Bombay website: https://acad.iitb.ac.in/admissions/fees-structure. Timely payment is essential, as delays may incur daily late fees and may also block registration for the subsequent semester.

4.2. Fellowships & Assistantships

Institute Teaching Assistantships (TAs) are awarded to eligible students, typically in Category TA. These students receive a monthly stipend as per MHRD norms. External fellowships (FAs) (e.g. through UGC, CSIR, DST etc.) may also be available to eligible students. MPP students at ADCPS typically may be registered under any of the following categories[3]:

Teaching Assistantships (TA): ~12 positions are offered annually. A valid GATE score is required.

Fellowship Award (FA): Open to those with fellowships from government/semi-government agencies (e.g. CSIR, UGC[4], DST). A valid JRF award letter is needed.

Project Assistantships (TAP/RAP): Offered based on availability. Valid GATE score required.

Self-Finance (SF): Open to in-service candidates and those with work experience. Fresh graduates require a valid GATE score and must have completed their UG degree at least 2 years prior to admission.

Sponsored (SW): GATE score not required if candidate has 2+ years of experience; otherwise, GATE is mandatory.

4.3. Other Financial Assistance

IIT Bombay is committed to ensuring that no student admitted to the Institute is denied the opportunity to pursue their education due to financial constraints. In line with this commitment, a variety of financial assistance schemes are available. These include the Institute-level Financial Aid Programme (FAP), the Student Benevolent Fund managed by the Office of the Dean (SA), laptop loans, and easier term bank loans, among others. For more information, please refer:
https://acad.iitb.ac.in/financial-assistance

[3] https://acad.iitb.ac.in/sites/default/files/Advertisement(website)_202627.pdf
[4] UGC-NET JRF award for MPhil has been discontinued

4.4. Internship Support

Travel Allowance/Dearness Allowance rates for students towards fieldwork, seminar/conference participation, and Gymkhana activities within India are notified regularly. Broadly the current rates as per Circular dated: 10.01.2025 are as under and for more information, the latest circular can be accessed here: https://bighome.iitb.ac.in/index.php/s/X2GDKKaJfPbcjjw

However, this allowance may be subject to the admission category (such as TA etc), as per relevant rules. Latest details on eligibility may be confirmed from the

TA/DA Component	Revised Rate (for PG/PhD)
TA	AC 2nd/Chair Car (including Premium/Tatkal/Suvidha trains)
Accommodation	₹1200 per day
Local Travel	₹300 per day
Food Bills	₹1000 per day

Academic Office or the Department Office. The department facilitates internship placement processes and academic oversight but does not provide financial support beyond Institute provisions.

4.5. Vacation & Leave Policy

According to IIT Bombay's Master's Rules (MR 9 - p35, PGPC 232nd Meeting),

Winter and Summer Breaks: "Students admitted for 2 years master programme are entitled for Winter vacation in December and Summer break (15 days) in their first year."

Personal Leave: In addition to public holidays, students are "entitled for a maximum of 30 days leave in addition to public holidays, during the entire tenure of the programme."

Academic Leave (Conferences/Seminars): Up to 5 working days per semester are permitted for academic events related to coursework or research. These are leave-with-stipend, approved by the Head of Academic Unit.

Additional leave requires approval from the Dean (AP) upon the recommendation of the DPGC Convener.

4.6. Convocation & Exit Formalities

Before leaving campus, all graduating students must complete exit formalities, including submission of no-dues certificates and necessary settlements. No-dues are to be obtained from the Academic Office, Dean (SA), Department Office, Estate Office, Gymkhana, HCU, Library, SAU, and Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD). The department office will guide you through this process.

For students submitting a thesis, it is mandatory to upload Thesis 2 and the Policy Brief to the Library's ETD repository. To register for convocation, log in to the ASC portal: https://portal.iitb.ac.in/asc/Login

Prerequisites to fill the convocation form:

(i) Completion of graduation requirements (including course tagging and thesis defence).

(ii) Thesis submission approved by your supervisor and validated on the ETD portal (for MPP and PhD students).

(iii) Payment of the convocation fee of ₹1500 via the online payment gateway. Once payment is successful (you receive a 'Successful Transaction' message), you may proceed to fill out the convocation form.

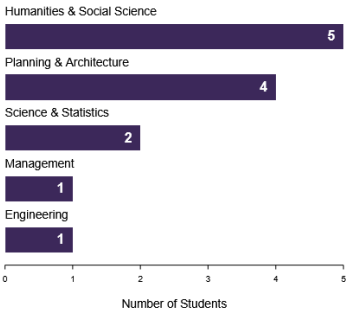
Career & Campus Life

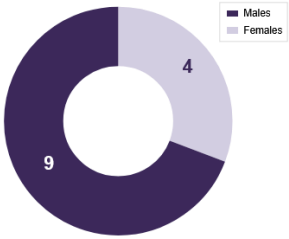
5.1. Career Pathways & Opportunities

Through its programmes, ADCPS aims to give its students tools which are applicable in diverse situations and teach students how to adapt to various fields, contexts, or situations. Students of the programmes can then find themselves fitting into and contributing to the public or private sectors, working within the government, or in the not-for-profit/NGO sector. They may choose to work for large corporations as analysts or policy lobbyists, or may do policy research in international organisations, think tanks, or pursue doctorate at globally reputed universities.

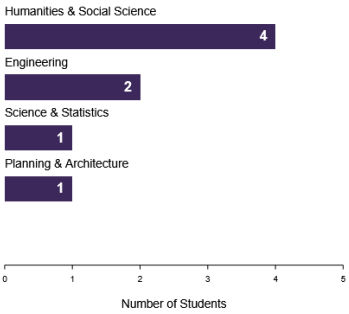
5.1.1. Cohort Diversity Profile

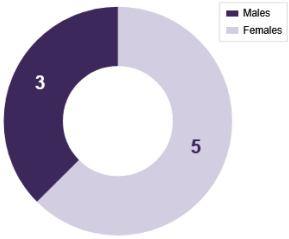
2024





2025





5.1.2. Placements and Past Recruiters

IIT Bombay has a well-structured and disciplined Placement Office, with the ADCPS student body coordinating through a dedicated Department Placement Coordinator. The centralised campus placement process is efficiently managed in collaboration with this office. Some of the recruiters for our past cohorts are listed below.

5.1.3. Outbound Exchange Programmes

Student Exchange Programmes enable students of IIT Bombay to study in institutions from different corners of the globe by offering students the opportunity to spend one or two semesters abroad for coursework or research under established MoUs with international universities. Students must plan ahead, ensure academic alignment, and secure necessary approvals. Most exchanges are self-funded, though some offer scholarships or support. For detailed guidelines, eligibility, timelines, updates, and application procedures, please visit the Dean IR (International Relations) website: https://www.ir.iitb.ac.in.

5.1.4. Conversion to Dual Degree PhD Programme

Motivated MPP students subject to eligibility may apply for conversion to a Dual Degree (MPP + PhD) programme without needing to undergo a separate PhD admission process. The option is available from the 3rd semester onwards, and applications must follow the official institute schedule as per the Institute guidelines[5] and may require some pre-planning.

Eligibility: Students must have registered the required MPP coursework and follow the department's timeline for submission of the application and evaluations. A valid research proposal (RP) is mandatory at the MTP-I (thesis 1) stage; successful presentation with an 'AB' grade or higher in MTP-I is required. Alternatively, conversion may be sought at the MTP-II (thesis 2) stage via oral evaluation.

Degree Decoupling Option (Only for MTP-I stage applicants):

With Decoupling: Students may complete and receive their MPP degree upon finishing Master's requirements, followed by the PhD upon completion of doctoral work. MTP-II (thesis 2) must be completed and evaluated.

Without Decoupling: Both MPP and PhD degrees are awarded together at the end of the PhD programme. MTP-II (thesis 2) is not required in this case, but all other credit requirements must be completed.

No Extra Coursework: Students admitted through conversion are not required to do additional coursework beyond the MPP requirements.

APS & Registration: The first APS for PhD is the Research Proposal or MTP-II (thesis 2) evaluation (R.8.2 of PhD Rules[6] - Ref 233/260 Senate Meeting). Students must register as PhD scholars in the semester following the conversion and PhD rules will apply henceforth.

[5] https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/RulesforConversionfromMasterstoDualDegree.pdf
[6] https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/phdRules.pdf

Assistantship: Eligible students may receive a PhD assistantship after conversion, subject to relevant norms and cumulative period.

Exit Option: Students may apply to exit the programme early with either one or both degrees (MPP and MS by Research), based on research progress, departmental recommendation, and Institute approval (refer guidelines for more as referenced).

5.1.5. Award of 'Minor' Degree with the Masters

An "important feature (of Masters Programmes at IIT Bombay) is the concept of a 'minor' wherein a student can utilise electives into a focused group of courses in another discipline". A minor will consist of 18-24 course credits. "This may include a maximum of 6 credits of R&D project. The Programme committees are required to prescribe and approve the structure of the minors to be offered" (MR, p.9; 247th Senate Meeting). More information on this may be accessed in the MR read in conjunction with latest guidelines on Minor Master's Programme.

5.2. Events

Students at ADCPS participate in a wide range of academic, cultural, and extracurricular events at both the department and institute levels, enriching their academic journey and peer learning experience. Here are highlights of some prominent events.

5.2.1. Department Level

Policy Talks

Seminars

Workshops

Policy Dialogues

Roundtables

Conferences

5.2.2. Institute Level

Mood Indigo

TechFest

Insight

E-Summit

Abhyuday

PG Cult Events

5.3. Amenities & Student Life: Hostels, Clubs, Gymkhana

Residence: As part of IIT Bombay's vibrant residential campus, ADCPS students benefit from a rich array of amenities and support systems that enhance academic life and well-being. Students are allotted accommodation in one of the institute's 18 hostels, each equipped with dining halls, common rooms, study areas, gymnasiums, and access to recreational facilities.

Extra-Curricular & Leisure: Campus life is further enriched through the Students' Gymkhana, which supports a range of cultural, sports, and technical clubs, including PG Cult events, Mood Indigo, Techfest, and inter-hostel competitions. For food and late-night breaks, the campus is dotted with cafes such as Chaayos, Café Coffee Day, Amul, Café 92, as well as multiple departmental and hostel canteens that remain open into the night. For more information, visit https://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in

5.4. Student Wellness & Safety at Workplace

Mental Health & Fitness: To support students' wellness, the Student Wellness Centre (SWC) provides mental health resources including therapy, group support, and mindfulness sessions. Medical care is available at the IIT Bombay

Hospital: https://www.iitb.ac.in/hospital. Please visit https://www.iitb.ac.in/swc/en for more on Student Wellness Centre.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Discrimination: Importantly, the institute has institutional mechanisms to ensure student safety, equity, and dignity. The Gender Cell, SC/ST Cell, and the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) address issues of discrimination and sexual harassment. ADCPS has designated representatives in these bodies, and the department is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment. Awareness sessions and grievance redressal protocols are regularly communicated to students. For detailed information on Gender Cell, please visit https://www.iitb.ac.in/resources/gendercell, SC/ST Cell: https://www.scstcell.iitb.ac.in

5.5. Important Resources & Links

Key resources and important links are compiled in **Appendix 5.1**.

Code of Conduct

All members at ADCPS, IIT Bombay, are expected to uphold the highest standards of mutual respect, academic integrity, and professionalism. The Institute maintains a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination or misconduct.

6.1. Non-Discrimination and Respectful Conduct

ADCPS strictly prohibits all forms of discrimination or harassment based on caste, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or region. Any behaviour that violates the dignity or inclusion of community members, whether verbal, written, or digital, will invite disciplinary action.

6.2. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All academic work must reflect original thought and proper acknowledgment of sources. Plagiarism, including copying text, ideas, or paraphrased content without appropriate citation, is a serious offence. Submissions will typically be plagiarism-checked and penalties may include grade penalties, rejection of the work, or disciplinary measures, as per Institute rules.

6.3. Grievance Redressal & Support

Students are encouraged to seek support and raise concerns through appropriate institutional channels. Depending on the nature of the issue, they may reach out to:

Internal Complaints Committee (ICC): for cases related to sexual harassment

Gender Cell: for gender-based concerns or support

SC/ST Cell: for caste-based grievances and discrimination

Student Wellness Centre: for mental health and emotional well-being

Department-level issues: students may approach their Student Council Representatives, Faculty Advisor, Supervisor, or the Head of the Department, as they feel most comfortable and safe.

All concerns will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality, in line with Institute policies.

Department SC/ST Cell and Gender Cell Coordinator: Dr Malish C. M.

Faculty Advisor (MPP 2026–28): Dr Himanshu Burte

Appendices

Appendix 2.1: Advisory Board Members

Ashank Desai

Principal Founder and Chairman
Mastek, Mumbai

Arun Maira

Former India Head
BCG

Harish Hande

Co-founder
Solar Electric Light Company
SELCO, Bangalore

Kaushik Basu

Padma Bhushan
Professor of Economics
Cornell University

N. S. Nappinai

Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Founder, Cyber Saathi

Pradeep Kumar Kapur

Former Ambassador
and Secretary
Government of India

Rentala Chandrasekhar

Former President
NASSCOM

Yamini Aiyar

Former President and Chief Executive
Centre for Policy Research
New Delhi

Appendix 2.2: Faculty Members

Core Faculty

Vinish Kumar Kathuria

Professor and Head

Productivity
Technology Transfer
Renewable Energy
Solid Waste Management
Industrial Policy

Anupam Guha

Assistant Professor

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Political Economy of AI
Technology and Society
Digital Societies
Digital Platforms

Himanshu Burte

Associate Professor

Urban Policy and Planning
Infrastructural Space
Urban Informality
Urban Public Space
Housing

Malish C. M.

Assistant Professor

Higher Education
Equity and Governance
Intermediary Organisations
EdTech Platforms

N. C. Narayanan

Professor

Water Policy & Sanitation
Local Governance
Energy
Climate Change
Environmental Services

Naveen Bharathi

Assistant Professor

Urban Policy
Spatial Segregation
Political Economy of Identity
Ethnic Diversity and Development

Prabhir Vishnu Poruthiyil

Associate Professor

Privatisation of Policymaking
Ageing and Society
Ethics
Policy History

Rahul Suresh Sapkal

Assistant Professor

Gig and Platform Economy
Caste
Labour and Technology
Social and Welfare Policies
Law and Economics

Shishir K. Jha

Professor

Digital Public Goods & Infrastructure
Digital Governance
Data Centres
Digital Platforms
Data Monetisation

Adjunct Faculty

Ajay Deshpande

Adjunct Professor

Circular Economy
Environmental Protection
Environmental Governance
Natural Resources Management

Malini Krishnankutty

Adjunct Associate Professor

Sustainable Urban Planning
Peri-urban Development
History of Urban Planning

Sundeep Oberoi

Adjunct Professor

Digital Societies
Technology and Society
Data Governance and Management
Standards and Policy Cybersecurity

Distinguished and Honorary Visiting Faculty

N. V. Varghese

Former Vice-chancellor
National Institute of
Educational Planning and Administration

Sekhar Bonu

Former Director General
Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office
NITI Aayog

Visiting Faculty

Ashish Desai

Associate Professor
S. P. Jain Institute of
Management &
Research

Himanshu Kulkarni

Managing Director
Advanced Center for Water
Resources Development and
Management

Ishani Mukherjee

Associate Professor
Public Policy
Singapore Management
University

Nitin Kareer

Former Chief
Secretary
Government of
Maharashtra

Appendix 2.3: Staff Members

Vandana Pagare (Dube)

Administrative Officer
(PS to the Head)

Jagruti Rajendra Yadav

Junior Administative Assistant

Bindu S. Kaleskar

Project Manager

Sarika Vijay Shivsharan

Senior Project Technical Assistant

Pramod P. Ghanekar

Office Attendant

Jay Vijay Navgire

Office Attendant

Appendix 2.4: Student Representatives

Institute Student Council 2026-27

Abhijeet Mukhekar	General Secretary Hostel Affairs
Yeshwanth Reddy	General Secretary Academic Affairs (PG)
Dhanashree Mologu	General Secretary Academic Affairs (UG)
Veeraditya Parakh	General Secretary Technical Affairs
Harmin Shah	General Secretary Sports Affairs
Deepak Sharma	General Secretary Cultural Affairs

Note: Institute Student Affairs Council (SAC) Constitution may be accessed here: https://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/SAC-Constitution-March-2018.pdf

Appendix 3.1: Courses Offered

A. Core Courses

PS 601	Public Policy Theory - I
PS 607	Public Policy Theory - II
PS 605	Social Science Perspectives in Public Policy
PS 606	Public Policy in India: History, Institutions and Practice
PS 609	Research Methodology and Design
PS 610	Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods
PS 633	Writing Policy
PS 694	Credit Seminar
PS 621	Internship
PS 796	MPP Thesis - I
PS 798	MPP Thesis - II
PS 899	Communication Skills
GC 101	Gender in the Workplace
TA 101	Teaching Assistant Skill Enhancement & Training (TASET)

B. Elective Courses

PS 619	Health Policy
PS 625	Environmental Governance & Development
PS 630	Technology and the Future of Workers
PS 632	Contemporary Issues in Data Policy and Management
PS 635	Economic Analysis for Public Policy
PS 636	Information Economy, Platforms and Governance
PS 637	Circular Economy: Policy and practices
PS 642	Policy and Practice of Education
PS 643	Introduction to AI, Data and Policy
PS 644	Advanced Topics in AI, Data and Policy
PS 651	Mobility, Policy and Infrastructure
PS 657	Cybersecurity Governance and Management - Policy Considerations
PS 658	Environmental Services in a Climate-Changing World
PS 660	Documentaries for Policy Change
PS 661	Data Science for Policy Studies
PS 663	Urban Planning in India: Policy Implications, Challenges and Approaches
PS 701	Energy Transition
PS 801	State, Markets and Public Policy

Skill-based Courses (3 Credits)	
PS 646	Public Finance and Budget Analysis
PS 647	Data Analytics for Public Policy
PS 648	Data Visualisation for Public Policy
PS 650	GIS for Policy Analysis
PS 652	Crafting Narratives to Shape Policy

Note: Above list of elective courses is indicative. Not all electives are offered every year, they are offered depending upon the availability of faculty members.

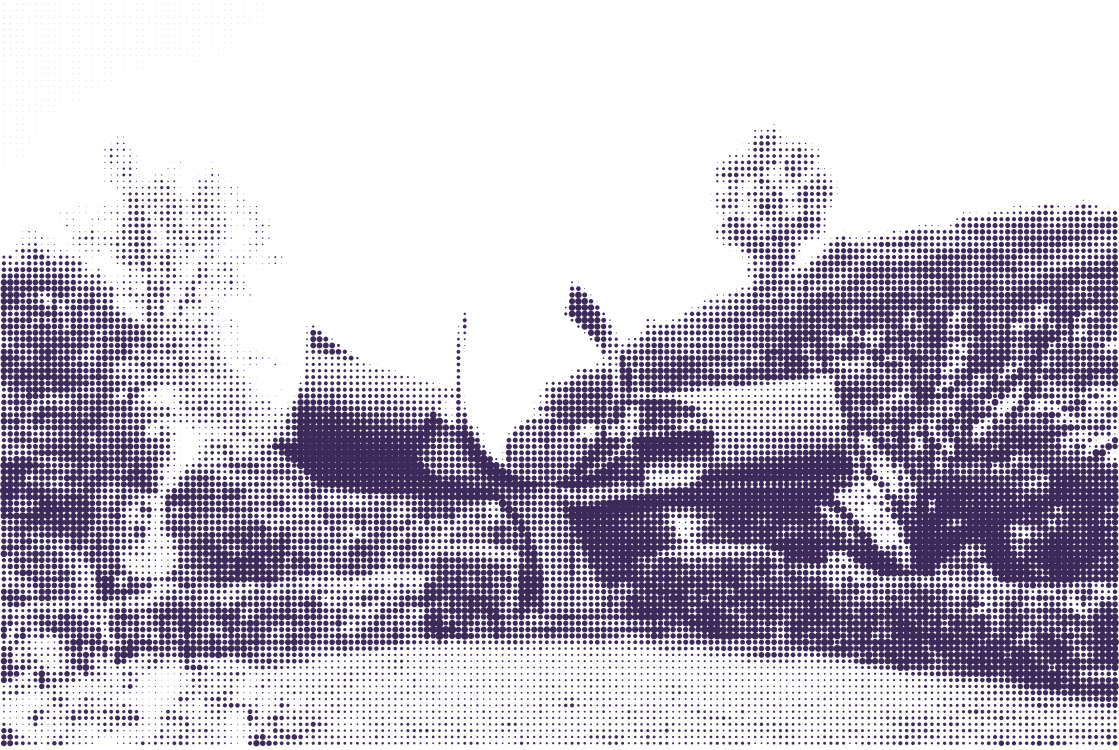
Appendix 5.1: Important Links

Academic Calendar 2026-27
https://acad.iitb.ac.in/sites/default/files/Academic_Calendar_2026-27_FINAL.pdf
Constitution of ADCPS Student Body
Link to be updated on ADCPS website
Constitution of SAC
https://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/SAC-Constitution-March-2018.pdf
Course Offered at Institute Level
https://portal.iitb.ac.in/asc/Courses
Degree Conversion Rules (MPP to Dual Degree MPP+PhD)
https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/RulesforConversionfromMasterstoDualDegree.pdf
Exit Rules
https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/rulesPG.jsp
External ASC Portal
https://portal.iitb.ac.in/asc/Login
Financial Aid
https://acad.iitb.ac.in/financial-assistance
Gender Cell
https://www.iitb.ac.in/resources/gendercell
Gymkhana, IIT Bombay
https://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in
IIT Bombay Hospital
https://www.iitb.ac.in/hospital
List of All Rules and Regulations
https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/rulesPG.jsp
Master's Programme Rules
https://acad.iitb.ac.in/sites/default/files/M.Tech_.%20MPP.%20M.Des_.%20MBA%20Rules_0.pdf
Minor Degree Award Guidelines
https://acad.iitb.ac.in/sites/default/files/GuidelinesProcedureforawardingMinormastersprogramme_0.pdf
PhD Programme Rules
https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/phdRules.pdf
SC/ST Cell
https://www.scstcell.iitb.ac.in
Student Wellness Centre
https://www.iitb.ac.in/swc/en
TA/DA Rates Circular for fieldwork/internship etc (updated on 10-01-2025)
https://bighome.iitb.ac.in/index.php/s/X2GDKKaJfPbcjjw

Disclaimer: This handbook aims to serve as a ready reckoner for students by pooling and simplifying key rules and guidelines at one place. While great care has been taken in its compilation and presentation, it is not exhaustive. In the event of any discrepancy, the official rules and regulations of IIT Bombay shall prevail.

Last Updated: 21 July 2026

Ashank Desai
Centre *for* Policy Studies
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Insight ♦ Dialogue ♦ Impact



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