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From Editorial Desk

Warm Greetings!

We are delighted to bring to you volume 67, issues 3 & 4 of the IIPS Newsletter, which presents glimpses of activities of the Institute from April to September 2025.

The 65th and 66th Convocation of the Institute was held on 28th May 2025, and 346 students were awarded degrees/diplomas. Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, and Chemicals & Fertilisers, Government of India, presided over the function. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Vice-President of India, was the Chief Guest and delivered the convocation address.

The editorial team is grateful for the timely support, contribution, and suggestions in preparing the IIPS Newsletter and looks forward to your continued support in the future. For any feedback/query, please contact the Publications Cell at publication@iipsindia.ac.in.

[Editorial Team](#)

Newsletter Editorial Team

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Vision: “To position IIPS as a premier teaching and research institute in population sciences responsive to emerging national and global needs through high-impact, cutting edge and multidisciplinary research, teaching and training”

Mission: “The Institute strives to be a centre of excellence on all population and health issues through high quality scientific, research and teaching. We achieve this by (a) creating highly competent professionals, (b) generating and disseminating scientific knowledge and evidence, (c) collaborating and exchanging ideas with other institutions, and (d) undertaking advocacy and awareness programmes”.

65th & 66th CONVOCATION OF IIPS

The 65th & 66th convocation of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) was held on 28th May 2025 for the academic year 2023-24 & 2024-25 respectively. This year, 200 (2023-24) & 146 (2024-25) students were awarded degrees/diplomas. Additionally, the exceptional research and academic achievements of these students were duly recognised and lauded with the presentation of gold and silver medals.



Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar ji, Hon'ble Vice-President of India, was the Chief Guest of the Convocation ceremony. The convocation address was delivered by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. During his address, he mentioned that *'it is imperative and instructive to recall the powerful triad, demography, democracy, and diversity. These 3Ds define the soul of new Bharat. These three pillars encapsulate the essence of India's identity and aspirations.* Also,

emphasise that 'demography is the compass guiding India's journey towards sustainable development, which is a global need'.

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, and Chemicals & Fertilisers, Government of India, presided over the function. Smt. Anupriya Patel delivered the presidential address and expressed that it was a privilege to address the institute on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. Prof. D.A. Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge) IIPS, presented the activities and achievements of the Institute for the year 2023-24 & 2024-25 respectively.



VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA



In response to the invitation from the Office of the Hon'ble Vice President of India, the International Institute for Population Sciences -Mumbai organised a visit to the Parliament of India on 19th June 2025. The aim of the visit was to make students more aware of the parliamentary procedure and get a closer view of the legislative organ of the country, the maker of all laws. A total number of 28 (PG & PhD) students, accompanied by Prof. D A Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS, one Professor and

Assistant Registrar (academic) were part of this visit. The Parliament of India is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India. With great zeal and enthusiasm, the students, along with the officials, entered the parliament complex after completing all the formalities and the group was welcomed by various officials of the secretariat who presented a brief introduction about our law-making process. After the brief introduction, the group proceeded on a guided tour to explore the new parliament building (Lok Sabha Hall, Rajya Sabha Hall), where they witnessed the beautiful galleries created on the theme of the diverse cultural heritage of India. Then the students were taken to the Lok Sabha, which is built on the theme of the peacock, and the Rajya Sabha, built on the theme of the lotus. Both houses of the new parliament building are beautifully decorated and equipped with modern technology. Students and Officials took opportunity of sitting in public gallery of both houses. The tour guide very efficiently explained the conduct of parliament sessions & their preparation and elaborated upon various insightful facts about different halls and structures. The group was served lunch in the canteen of the Parliament.

Lastly, the students were taken to the old parliament building (Samvidhan Sadan), and they witnessed the central hall of the parliament where the historic transfer of power from the British to India took place in 1947. It was a wonderful experience for the students to witness the epitome of democracy in India the Parliament of India.

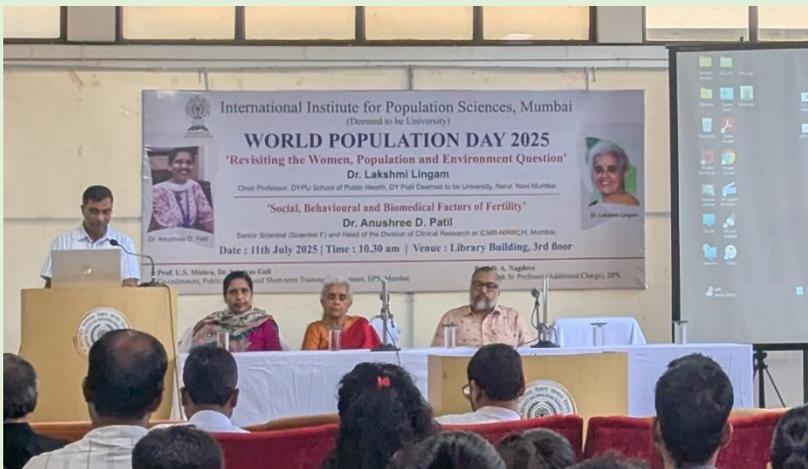


WORLD POPULATION DAY SYMPOSIUM

World Population Day was observed at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, on 11 July 2025, with the global theme “Investing in People, Prioritising Reproductive Health and Rights.” The event was organised by the Publication Cell and Short-term Training Programme of the Institute. The program aimed to highlight the importance of reproductive health, demographic research, and policy discussions in addressing contemporary population challenges.

The program commenced at 10:30 AM with the opening of the session, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, marking the formal beginning of the event. Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge) at IIPS, delivered the Director’s message, emphasising the significance of World Population Day in raising awareness about population dynamics, reproductive health, and the need for informed policy interventions in rapidly changing demographic contexts.

Following this, Prof. U. S. Mishra introduced the event and highlighted the importance of engaging with contemporary demographic issues through academic discussions and expert insights. The guest speakers were felicitated by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, and their introduction was delivered by Prof. U. S. Mishra, setting the stage for the invited lectures.



The first guest lecture was delivered by Dr Lakshmi Lingam, Chair Professor at the DY Patil School of Public Health, DY Patil Deemed to be University, Navi Mumbai. In her lecture titled “Investing in People, Prioritising Reproductive Health and Rights,” she discussed the importance of strengthening reproductive health systems, ensuring equitable access to health services, and safeguarding reproductive rights as a critical component of sustainable development and population well-being.

The second guest lecture was delivered by Dr Anushree D. Patil, Senior Scientist (Scientist F) and Head of the Division of Clinical Research at ICMR-NIRRH, Mumbai. Her talk on “Social, Behavioural and Biomedical Factors of Fertility” provided valuable insights into the multidimensional determinants of fertility. She highlighted how social norms, behavioural patterns, and biomedical factors interact to shape fertility

outcomes, and emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in fertility research and reproductive health policy.

The lectures were followed by an engaging Question-and-Answer session, moderated by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, in which students and faculty members actively engaged with the speakers and discussed various issues related to reproductive health, fertility patterns, and demographic transitions.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr Srinivas Goli, Coordinator of the Short-term Training Programme and Publication Cell, who expressed gratitude to the guest speakers, faculty members, students, and organisers for their contributions in making the event a meaningful academic engagement.

The celebration of World Population Day 2025 at IIPS provided an important platform for academic dialogue on population issues and reinforced the institute's commitment to advancing research and policy discussions on reproductive health and demographic change.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Dr B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture was organised on May 1, 2025, at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). The lecture, titled "Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Confronting the Conceptual Practices of Power," was delivered by Dr Ramesh Kamble, former Professor at the University of Mumbai. The session was chaired by Prof. Chander Shekhar from the Department of Fertility and Social Demography, IIPS, while Prof. T. V. Sekher served as the discussant. The event drew a large gathering of participants from within and outside the Institute.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

One-week training program for the ORGI officers on “Demographic Concepts and Techniques”- August 04-08, 2025



International Institute for Population Sciences and the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India jointly organized a one-week training program for the ORGI officers on “Demography and Population Related Issues and Techniques” from August 04-08, 2025 at IIPS. The training program was conducted for the Assistant Directors (T) of the ORGI. 8 participants attended the training program. Prof. U S Mishra, Publication

Cell & Short-term Training Program Coordinator, IIPS, welcomed the participants and the ORGI officials. Prof. D A Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS, chaired the inaugural session.

Shri. Sanjay, Additional Registrar General of India, inaugurated the workshop. Shri. A. N. Rajeev, Deputy Registrar General, Shri Y. S. Patil, Joint Director, Shri K. A. Gurav, Deputy Registrar General and Shri. Pravin N Bhagat, Assistant Director (T), also spoke on the occasion. Dr Gopal Agarwal (ORGI) coordinated the training program and accompanied the trainees to IIPS. The program was organised into different topical sessions, which included lectures and computer applications by IIPS faculty.

The resource persons were Prof. Udaya Shankar Mishra, Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Prof. R. Nagarajan, Prof. Chander Shekhar, Prof. Abhishek Singh, Prof. Nandita Saikia, Prof. K. C. Das, Prof. Archana K. Roy, Prof. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi, Prof. Dhananjay W. Bansod, Dr Srinivas Goli, Dr Dilip T. R., Dr Manas



Pradhan, Dr Harihar Sahoo, Dr Suryakant Yadav, Dr Preeti Dhillon, Dr Reshmi R. S., Dr Kaushalendra Kumar, and Dr Guru Vasishtha. The training program covered topics such as Population and age-sex structure, Concepts and measurements of Fertility, Mortality and Morbidity, Population projection methods, Concepts and measures of Urbanisation and Migration, Life Table and its Applications, Population Policies

and programs, Population and Development. The participants were certified for successful completion. Coordinators: Prof. Udaya Shankar Mishra and Dr Srinivas Goli.



WORKSHOPS

Workshop on "New and Advanced Features of SPSS version 31"



The ICT Centre, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), successfully organised a two-day workshop on the "New and Advanced Features of SPSS version 31" on July 24–25, 2025. Prof. D.A. Nagadeve, Director, IIPS, inaugurated the programme and addressed the participants, emphasising the critical role of advanced statistical software in contemporary research. The training sessions provided in-depth, hands-on exposure to

the latest features of SPSS version 31, benefiting a diverse group of research scholars, faculty, and academic professionals. The interactive format of the workshop ensured active participation and a productive learning experience.

Workshop on “New and Advanced Features of STATA version 19”

The ICT Centre of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) successfully organised a two-day training programme and workshop on the "New and Advanced Features of STATA version 19" on July 28–29, 2025. The workshop was officially inaugurated by the Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS, who addressed the participants and emphasised the importance of keeping pace with advanced statistical software for high-quality research. The technical sessions focused on equipping participants, comprising research scholars, faculty, and professionals, with updated skills in data management and analysis using the latest features of STATA 19. The programme witnessed active engagement from attendees, who benefited from hands-on training and expert guidance provided by the institute's ICT team.



Workshop and Expert Consultation on "Jiyo Parsi Scheme Evaluation" | April 23, 2025

As part of the ongoing Ministry of Minority Affairs-funded project entitled ‘An Evaluation of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme in Reversing the Decline of the Parsi Population’, conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), an expert consultation meeting cum workshop was held at IIPS on April 23, 2025



to review the methodology, tools and finalise fieldwork plans. The session was enriched by insights from esteemed experts: Prof. Shalini Bharat (Former VC, TISS, Mumbai), Prof. Sayeed Unisa, and Dr. Priyanka Dixit. The meeting was attended by all PIs and Co-PIs, Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge), Prof. L. K. Dwivedi, Dr.

Preeti Dhillon, Dr. Kunal Keshri, Dr. Guru Vasishtha and with active support from the project team members Pankaj Kumar Patel, Sachin Kamble, and Bharti Maurya. Workshop titled "A Hands-on Training of SPSS: Basics to Advanced".

ACTIVITIES UNDER ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6)

The sixth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) for 2023—24 is currently underway. Fieldwork has been successfully completed in 27 states and all 8 Union Territories (UTs). NFHS-6 will provide district-level estimates for most indicators across all 715 districts in the country as of June 30, 2021; Manipur was not covered.

Data collection was conducted using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) devices. The collected data have been processed, and data validation and analysis are currently underway at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). Data analysis for generating results in line with the NFHS-5 State Report Tabulation Plan has been initiated, and the syntax and results are being reviewed for consistency. A draft NFHS-6 National Report Tabulation Plan was prepared and shared with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for review and comments. Work on the development of the NFHS API and dashboard was also undertaken during this period and is nearing completion. Final integration and public release are expected soon.

In the area of biomarker testing, analysis of dried blood spot (DBS) samples collected during NFHS-6 is actively underway at six designated regional laboratories, in coordination with ICMR-NITVAR, Pune, and IIPS. These activities are expected to be completed by March 2026.

Additionally, NFHS data has been made accessible to registered users through the official NFHS website, enhancing transparency and ease of access. Users can now request NFHS data after registration and obtain the required approvals through the following link:

<https://www.nfhsiips.in/nfhsuser/datarequest.php>

Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)

The project has reached a significant procurement milestone, as the bid evaluation process has been successfully completed following rigorous cross-verification of pre-eligibility criteria and a comprehensive evaluation of both technical and financial bids; based on this final evaluation, the contract has been awarded for nine groups of States and Union Territories, marking a major step forward in scaling up field operations. In parallel, substantial work has been completed to update the study's core tools in preparation for the Wave 2 launch, including a comprehensive review and modification of all survey instruments and manuals to align with the updated Wave 2 questionnaires, ensuring content accurately reflects the study's evolving objectives.

Furthermore, the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) program has been revised and updated to reflect the final Wave 2 household and individual questionnaires, providing a critical technological upgrade for efficient and accurate real-time data collection. On the administrative front, the committee has finalized the estimated financial requirements for the upcoming fiscal year (2025–26), and this proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for approval. Additionally, a formal agreement has been signed with the University of Southern California (USC), establishing a Memorandum of Understanding that clearly defines roles, responsibilities, timelines, and deliverables related to the continued development and rigorous testing of the CAPI tool. These coordinated efforts underscore our commitment to maintaining LASI's high standards as we prepare for the successful implementation of Wave 2.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE LEARNING

Contact Programme for M.A distance learners from 23rd June 2025 to 4th July 2025 at IIPS, Mumbai



The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) conducted a Contact Programme for M.A. in Population Studies distance learners through an online mode from 23 June 2025 to 4 July 2025. Dr. Dhananjay W. Bansod, Professor and Head of CDOE, welcomed the participants. Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Senior Professor and Director (Additional Charge), chaired the session and delivered the inaugural address. Faculty members

of CDOE moderated the sessions, and the institute's faculty delivered lectures for the distance learners during the programme. A total of 8 students attended the contact programme conducted over a period of two weeks.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

IQAC Annual Meeting at IIPS



The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, held its Annual Meeting on 15 April 2025, organized by the IQAC team led by Prof. Nandita Saikia, along with Ms. Lavina and Mr. Amol Hase, with participation from internal members and external experts. The meeting reviewed key institutional initiatives, including the introduction of skill-based courses to enhance inclusivity, strengthening of extension and community engagement activities, and reinforcement of internships and experiential learning for postgraduate students. Discussions also focused on using student feedback to improve mentorship and curriculum delivery, and on updating the curriculum based on stakeholder feedback to align with national academic benchmarks. The IQAC also noted progress in implementing NEP 2020, including the planned launch of NEP-aligned courses from 2025–26, adoption of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative in the library, and efforts to strengthen industry linkages. The meeting further recommended recognizing faculty achievements and improving communication and transparency within the institute. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Nandita Saikia, acknowledging the support of the IIPS administration and the contributions of all participating experts.

Digital India Talk Show



The Digital India Talk Show was successfully organised at the International Institute for Population Sciences on 21-08-2025 on the 3rd Floor Hall, Library Building. The purpose of the Digital India Talk Show was to educate students/staffs about the Government's digital initiatives and also provide a platform for interaction with experts from the National e-Governance Division. The event was also organised to create awareness about various digital platform under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The programme was hosted by Dr Manas R Pradhan, and the welcome Address was delivered by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS. Mr Ajeet Kumar, Deputy General, National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Mr Naman Agrawal, Team Lead, DPDP Act, and Sahil Gupta, Manager, MyScheme, have conducted the interaction sessions. Mr Ajeet Kumar delivered the inaugural address, introduced the talk show and explained the importance of Digital India initiatives. A session on DigiLocker was conducted, showcasing its features and benefits which empowers us with a secure, paperless solution for accessing and sharing official documents anytime, anywhere. Mr. Naman Agrawal, Team Lead, DPDP Act, discussed the key aspects of the Digital Data Protection Act, 2023, and its implications. The Act ensures to keep people's personal information safe in the digital world.



The Automatic Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) and National Academic Depository (NAD) were also discussed, emphasising their role in academic digitisation. The APAAR is a unique lifelong ID given to every student in India to keep all their academic records in one place. The NAD is a digital platform where these certificates, mark sheets, and other educational documents are safely stored online. It makes easy for students to access, share, and verify their academic achievements anytime without worrying about losing physical documents.



Mr Sahil Gupta, Manager, presented the myScheme platform's capabilities and advantages. The platform helps citizens to find the right Government schemes for them. It also guides on how to apply for different Government schemes without visiting multiple Government websites.

At the conclusion of the talk show, a Digital India Quiz was conducted by Mr Naman Agrawal, and 68 staff/students participated in the Quiz contest. The winners were announced and prizes were distributed. The talk show empowered students with knowledge about India's digital landscape. Students gained insights into the digital transformation happening in the country. The programme ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr Sudarshan Bhadra, Assistant Registrar (Acad.), expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, officials, participants, and the organising team for making the talk show successful.

Anti-Ragging Week Celebration of International Institute for Population Sciences

As part of the Anti-Ragging Week initiated by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Institute conducted the inauguration and awareness programme on AntiRagging Day, 12th August, 2025. The event aimed to foster a safe and welcoming environment for all students in the campus.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome addressed by Prof. D A Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge) and Chairman of the Anti-Ragging committee. In his speech, he highlighted the significance of Anti-Ragging Week and the importance of eradicating ragging from educational institutions and of retaining a ragging free campus.

13/08/2025 and 18/08/2025 - Orientation Programme Programme for Hostel Students (1st & 2nd Year)



Prof. D A Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge) also Chairman of the Anti-Ragging committee while addressing the Hostel students underscored the harmful effects of ragging on students' mental and physical well-being and the legal consequences associated with it. Prof. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi , Hostel Warden and Chairman of Anti Raggigng squad and Dr Kaushalendra Kumar, Member AntiRagging Squad also stressed the importance of creating awareness and educating students about the detrimental impact of ragging, encouraging everyone to be vigilant and being proactive in preventing such incidents. As part of the programme, Dr. Manoj Alagarajan, Chief Administrative Officer-cumRegistrar (Interim Charge), Dr. Manjiri Rane Assistant Registrar Administration, (Non Member Secretary Anti-Ragging Committee, Mr. Sudrashan Bhadra Assistant Registrar Academic, Member Anti Ragging Committee addressed the students to maintain a ragging-free campus and to support their peers in the fight against this social evil. Ms. Anita S Dogra, Hostel Manager briefed the students on the Hostel and Mess Rules.

Competitions Conducted as part of Anti-Ragging Week Celebration

Poster & Slogan competitions were conducted on August 13 and 18, 2025, as part of the Anti-Ragging Week. Hostel Manager, volunteered the conduct of the competitions. The events were designed to raise awareness about the importance of creating a safe and inclusive campus environment. Students actively participated in various contests, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the anti-ragging theme through Slogans and Posters.



Anti-Ragging Awareness Day and Week Marks Start of New Academic Session 2025-2026 at IIPS

As 12 August 2025 was the National Anti-Ragging Day, a strong emphasis was made on student safety and awareness through a dedicated Anti-Ragging orientation session by Prof. R. Nagarajan, sensitising students to the importance of a safe and respectful campus culture and recommending the UGC's anti-ragging mechanisms for reference. He also introduced the members of the Anti-Ragging Committee and the Anti-Ragging Squad Team and motivated students to actively participate in the UGC Anti-Ragging National Contest.



IIPS Director & Senior Professor D. A. Nagdeve, Chairperson and Prof. R. Nagarajan, Member of the Anti-Ragging Committee, guided students on how to report incidents and access support. It was strongly emphasised that mutual respect and safety are foundational to campus life, and every student has a role in upholding this culture.

Important contacts, including the Anti-Ragging Committee and Squad, were introduced to the students for easy access to support. Helpline numbers and other contact details were shared to ensure prompt access to support. An anti-ragging message from C4Y (Centre for Youth) was also played to spread awareness. Students were encouraged to participate in the National Anti-Ragging Contest #YaARIYouthAgainstRagging — a social media initiative by C4Y and UGC promoting awareness through creative content like reels, videos, and posters.



Inaugural Ceremony of First Batch of NEP 2020, IIPS



The Inauguration Ceremony of the new academic session 2025-2026 at IIPS was held on 12 August 2025, welcoming the “First batch of students under NEP 2020”. One of the key highlights of the event was the Anti-Ragging Awareness segment, reinforcing the institute’s commitment to a safe, respectful and inclusive campus environment.

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, achieved a significant academic milestone with the inauguration of the first batch under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) on 12th August 2025. The event began with the auspicious Deep Prajwalan ceremony. Prof. Archana Roy hosted the program, extended a warm welcome to all the Freshers and wished them for their upcoming journey. Prof. D.A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge), addressed the gathering and highlighted the transformative goals of NEP 2020 and the Institute's role in fostering an equitable, inclusive and multidisciplinary educational environment.



Further, to ensure that students are informed about their rights and institutional support mechanisms, Prof. Archana Roy provided an orientation on the Internal Committee (IC) under the POSH Act, 2013, followed by in-depth legal insights from Adv. Nayana Pardeshi and Adv. Mrudula Sawant. The session emphasized on the importance of gender sensitivity and sexual harassment.

Ms. Priti Thakkar, highlighted the psychological and emotional support services available to students on campus. An interactive Q&A session allowed students to engage with faculty members and experts, addressing their queries and concerns related to academics and support services.

IIPS NEP organized five interactive activities at IIPS: Map Your Roots, Cultural Snapshot, NEP Theme-Based Speak Up, Word Drop IIPS and a One-Day Memory Capsule Card. The events increased students' awareness about NEP 2020, thrust areas and promoted cultural diversity. Additionally, dedicated selfie points were set up to encourage student participation.



The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Suresh Jungari, acknowledged the contributions of everyone involved in making the inauguration a success. The ceremony ended on a patriotic note with the Rashtragaan, uniting all the attendees in a collective spirit of national pride and academic ambition.

Awareness Rally and Panel Discussion on NEP and IKS



IIPS, as a part of NEP initiatives, organised an Awareness Rally on the National Education Policy, followed by a panel discussion on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) on 29 August 2025. The campus-wide rally engaged students and faculty members in promoting the NEP vision of equitable, inclusive and holistic education. The panel discussion was inaugurated by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director

and Senior Professor (Additional Charge) and moderated by Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, NEP Coordinator, and Dr. Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator. It featured PhD scholars Mr Pankaj Patel and Ms Niharika Awasthi, along with NEP SAARTHIs Mr Ankit Gupta, Ms Harsha Shyjilin, and Ms Sayantani D. Majumder, who shared insights on the relevance of Indian knowledge in contemporary learning. Both the events fostered reflection, cultural exchange, and reinforced the IIPS's commitment to the transformational goals of NEP in higher education.



Extempore and Poster Competition



The IIPS, Mumbai, as part of the NEP initiatives, organised an engaging Extempore and Poster Competition on 30th September 2025. Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Senior Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS, inaugurated the event. Prof. T. V. Sekher, Prof. Murali Dhar, and Dr Harihar Sahoo served as jury members for the event, which was

moderated by Dr Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator, along with NEP SAARTHIs - Mr Ankit Gupta, Ms Harsha Shyjilin, and Ms Sayantani D. Majumder. Exploring the key themes and transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, students expressed their insights on diverse NEP initiatives, from multidisciplinary learning, skill development, and digital empowerment to inclusivity and global knowledge integration, in the Extempore. Poster Competition encouraged participants to depict the NEP's essence creatively through visual expression, illustrated future-ready education by blending cultural roots with

innovation and technology. Both the activities encouraged reflection, creativity and awareness, reaffirming IIPS's dedication to advancing NEP 2020's vision for inclusive and knowledge-based higher education.



Hindi Pakhwada

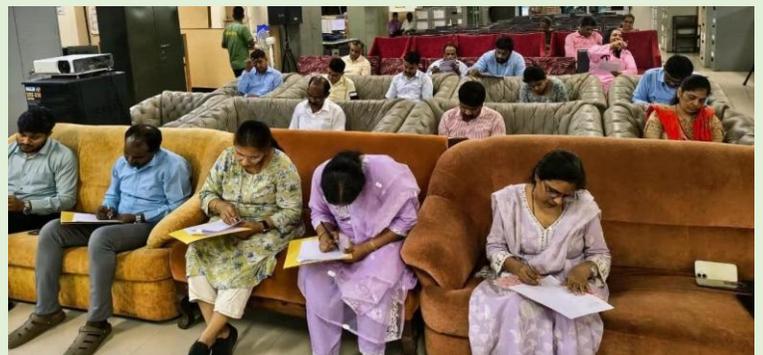


The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) successfully organised Hindi Pakhwada from 15th September to 29th September 2025, featuring a series of events aimed at promoting the Hindi language and its usage in official work.

The Hindi Pakhwada commenced with an inaugural ceremony on 15th September 2025, graced by Dr. D.A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor of the Institute. In

his address, the Director emphasized that Hindi is our mother tongue and it is our collective duty to respect and propagate it. He highlighted that the programs organized during the fortnight are intended to raise awareness about the Hindi language and facilitate official work through the use of simple and accessible vocabulary.

Prof. Dr. Murlidhar, Chairman of the Official Language Implementation Committee, addressed the gathering on the importance of Hindi and its promotion, encouraging everyone to participate enthusiastically in the upcoming competitions. Hindi Officer Ms. Nivedita Mishra provided detailed information about the various



competitions scheduled during the fortnight and urged all staff members to incorporate Hindi in their official work beyond just the competitive events. The stage was skillfully conducted by Research Scholar Shri Ankit Gupta, while Research Scholar Ms. Shefali Verma proposed the vote of thanks.



Throughout the fortnight, the institute organized a variety of competitions, including Official Language Quiz, Noting and Drafting, Translation, and Antakshari. Staff members and a large number of students actively participated, showcasing their linguistic skills and enthusiasm. The Hindi Pakhwada concluded on 29th September 2025 with a vibrant closing ceremony featuring a Humorous Poetry (Hāsyā Kavi Sammēlan). The poetry session

was graced by renowned poets Dr. Rajnikant Sharma, Shri Mukesh Gautam, and Shri Rakesh Tiwari. A special highlight was the participation of Dr. Jyoti Prakash Dubey, who joined as a guest poet from London especially for the occasion.

The valedictory function also included the prize distribution ceremony for the various competitions held during the fortnight, recognizing the achievements of the winning participants. The event was attended by Prof. Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Chairman of the Official Language Implementation Committee, Prof. Dr. Murlidhar, Hindi Officer Ms. Nivedita Mishra, along with faculty members and staff of the institute, marking a successful and culturally enriching conclusion to the Hindi Pakhwada celebrations.



Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) actively participated in the *Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan*, a nationwide health initiative by the Government of India, by organizing a series of health check-up camps and awareness campaigns focused on women's health and community well-being from September 17 to October 2, 2025. Dr. Sarang P. Pedgaonkar was designated as the Nodal Officer for the initiative at IIPS.



- *Inauguration and Institute-Level Activities*

The campaign was formally inaugurated by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Senior Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS. The first event, a General Health Check-up Camp, was held on September 17, 2025, within the IIPS campus, catering to the institute's staff and students.

- *Health Camp at Bhadval Village, Raigad*

In collaboration with the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Neral, IIPS organised a comprehensive health assessment camp for women on September 24, 2025, at Bhadval village in the Raigad district. The camp provided essential health services, including nutritional evaluation (height and weight measurement), Blood Pressure monitoring, Random Blood Glucose tests, and Hb (Haemoglobin) checks for anaemia.

Dr. Nitin Gurav, Taluka Health Officer, Karjat, addressed the villagers on the importance of regular health monitoring. A specialised session on "Nutrition & Women's Health" was conducted by Dr Sangita Medi, Medical Officer, PHC Neral. The organising team from IIPS included faculty members Dr Laxmi K. Dwivedi, Dr Sarang P. Pedgaonkar, Dr Suresh Jungari, and Dr Pradeep S. Salve.



- *Health Camp and Awareness Session at Govandi School*

On September 30, 2025, a health check-up camp was organised for students at Govandi Education Society



(R.S.T. Madhyamik Vidyalaya). The camp covered nutritional assessment (height and weight), ENT screening, dental check-ups, and clinical examinations for anaemia.

Concurrently, an informative session on "Menstruation Awareness & Hygiene" was conducted for the school girls by Dr Shireen J. Jejeebhoy and Dr Aparajita Chattopadhyay from IIPS. The interactive session addressed key topics, including understanding menstruation, debunking myths and

misconceptions, tackling social restrictions, the proper use of menstrual products, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) challenges, and existing initiatives in menstrual health management. The girls were encouraged to openly discuss menstruation-related health issues and received guidance on maintaining menstrual hygiene. As part of the program, all participating students were provided with hygiene kits and personalised health advice, creating a supportive and informed environment.

- *Medical Team and Outreach*

Dr Rohini V. Ambekar and Dr Sarang P. Pedgaonkar, along with the medical team from IIPS, conducted health check-ups at all three locations—IIPS campus, Bhadval village, and R.S.T. Madhyamik Vidyalaya—ensuring a safe and hygienic environment throughout. The efforts were greatly supported by dedicated student volunteers who assisted in all activities.



In total, the campaign benefited 445 individuals, including staff and students at IIPS, villagers from Bhadval, and school children, who received essential health screenings and check-ups.

- *Concluding Ceremony*

The *Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan* at IIPS concluded on October 1, 2025, with a special session on "Nutrition" led by Ms Priya Palan, a distinguished Dietitian. The valedictory function included remarks from Dr Chander Shekhar and Dr Rohini V. Ambekar of IIPS, followed by a felicitation ceremony honouring the volunteers for their invaluable contributions to the campaign's success.

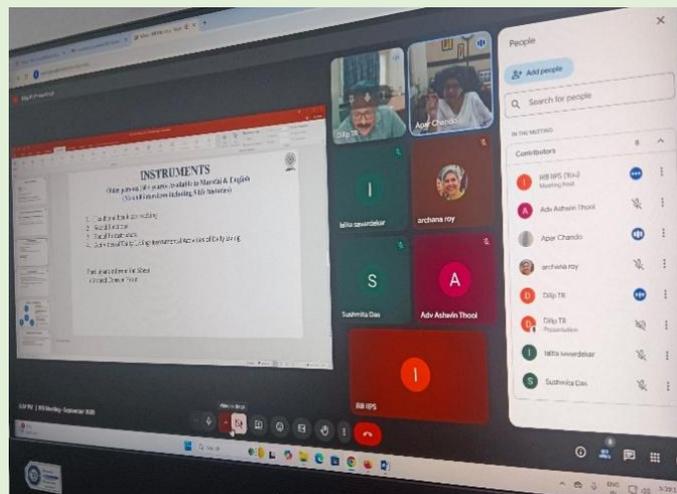


IIPS Institutional Review Board (IRB) Meeting

The IRB is chaired by an external expert and consists of members from diverse disciplines, including medical sciences, law, social activism, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic research. This multidisciplinary composition ensures that research proposals are reviewed from ethical, legal, social, and scientific perspectives.

The IIPS-IRB is chaired by Prof. D. P. Singh, Professor, School of Research Methodology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The Convener of the committee is Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Professor, Department of Population and Development, IIPS. The committee includes distinguished members such as Prof. Archana K. Roy (IIPS), Dr. Shireen J. Jejeebhoy (Independent Researcher), Prof. Gajanan D. Velhal (B.K.L. Walawalkar Rural Medical College), Dr. Lalita S. Savardekar (ICMR-NIRRH), Ms. Sushmita Das (SNEHA), Prof. M. Sivakami (TISS), and Prof. Deepak Raut (MGM Medical College, Navi Mumbai). The Legal Member of the board is Adv. Ashwin C. Thool, Counsel at the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court of India. The Member Secretary is the Research Officer (IRB), IIPS, Mumbai.

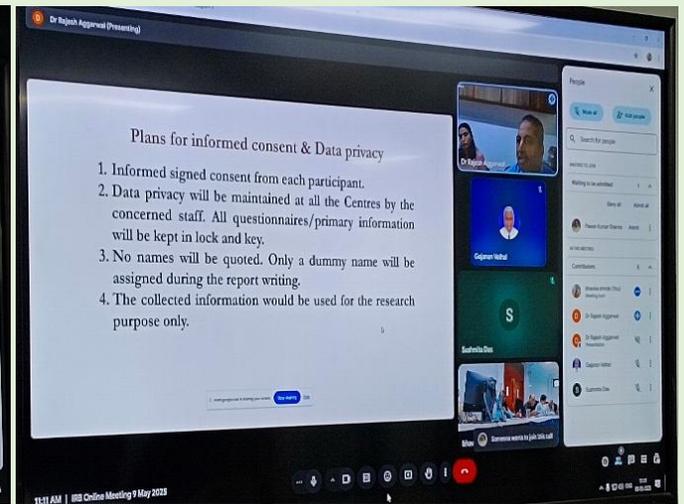
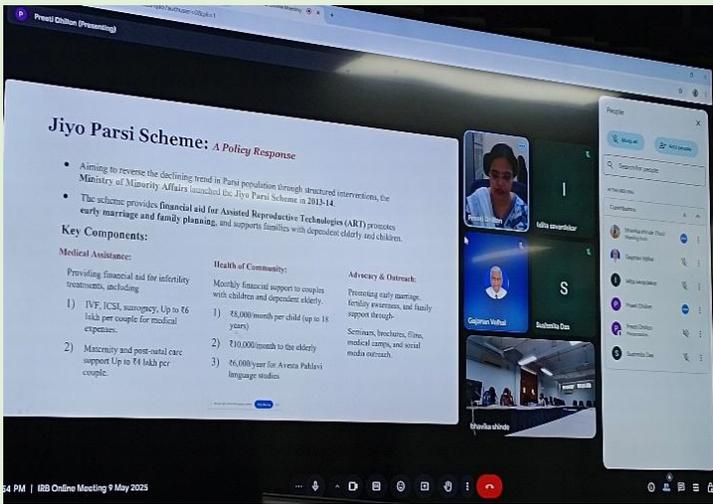
During the period from 1st April to 30th September 2025, two meetings were conducted and the committee approved four ethical clearances for research proposals as well as one prerequisite certificate for the submission of a research proposal for funding. The IIPS-IRB conducted its meetings on 9th May 2025 and 22nd September 2025, respectively. Out of the six proposals submitted for ethical clearance to conduct research studies, four were approved following the submission of their revised versions, while two are currently under review.



List of research proposals from 1st April to 30th September 2025:

S. No.	Research Proposal	University/ Institute
1.	Understanding Challenges & Barriers to IFA Adherence in Selected States in India: A provider's Perspectives (A multi-centric study)	PRC, Chandigarh
2.	Evaluation of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram in Selected Districts of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh	PRC, Chandigarh
3.	Primary Prevention and Management Strategy for Sickle Cell Disease among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups under National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission: Comparative study of selected PVTG in Madhya Pradesh	PRC, Sagar (M.P.)
4.	An Evaluation of "Jiyo Parsi" Scheme in Reversing the Decline of the Parsi Population	IIPS, Mumbai
5.	Unpacking Patterns, Drivers, and Consequences of Out Migration from the Middle Ganga Plain: A Longitudinal Approach	IIPS, Mumbai
6.	Medical Method of Abortion: A study of pharmacists and community health workers in Odisha	IIPS, Mumbai

7.	Qualitative study of social frailty and cognitive health in older adults in Maharashtra (Undertaken as part of the ongoing research project titled “The cognitive consequences of social frailty: a mixed methods study of precarity and resilience among aging populations in India”)	IIPS, Mumbai
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APPENDIX 1

A. PUBLISHED BOOKS / RESEARCH PAPERS OF IIPS FACULTY

- Biswas, S., Chattopadhyay, A., Schilling, K., & Das, A. (2026). Investigating the association between groundwater contaminants and hypertension risk in India: a machine learning-based analysis. *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology*, 36(1), 125-142.
- Bhutia, L. T., & Chattopadhyay, A. (2025). Environmental determinants of anaemia and its spatial association with Mosquito-Borne disease vulnerability: a case of Eastern and North-Eastern India. *Discover Public Health*, 22(1), 364.
- Jana, A., Pramanik, M., Maiti, A., Chattopadhyay, A., & Abed Al Ahad, M. (2025). In-utero exposure to PM 2.5 and adverse birth outcomes in India: Geostatistical modelling using remote sensing and demographic health survey data 2019–21. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 5(7), e0003798.
- Singh, A., Chattopadhyay, A., & Shri, N. (2025). Association of childhood disadvantage with malnutrition in older ages in India. *BMC geriatrics*, 25(1), 510.
- Sikdar, R., & Bansod, D. W. (2025). Does low fertility indicate better reproductive health status? Evidence from nationally representative survey in India. *PLoS One*, 20(8), e0329375.
- Sekher, T. V., Flood, D., Green, H., Hu, P., Ali, M. K., Shete, A., ... & Lee, J. (2025). Prevalence, awareness, treatment, and control of diabetes in India: a nationally representative survey of adults aged 45 years and older. *The Lancet Global Health*, 13(9), e1543-e1552.
- Prasad, A. B., Chattopadhyay, A., & Agarwal, A. (2025). Gender Dimensions of Work Participation and Life Satisfaction among Older Adults: Exploring 4 Metro Cities in India. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 11(1), 2552348.
- Dakua, M., & Lhungdim, H. (2025). Impact of adult son migration on the health wellbeing of older parents and shifts in caregiving patterns: a study in India. *BMC geriatrics*, 25(1), 690.
- Sikdar, R., & Bansod, D. W. (2025). Wealth differentials and contraceptive choices among women in India: insights from NFHS-5 (2019-21). *BMC Public Health*, 25(1), 3191.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), formerly known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) till 1970, was established in 1956 under the joint sponsorship of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government of India, and the United Nations. The Institute is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Institute served as a regional centre for Training and Research in Population Studies for the ESCAP region. The Institute was re-designated to its present title in 1985 to facilitate the expansion of its academic activities and was declared as a 'Deemed University' on August 19, 1985, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The recognition has facilitated the award of recognised degrees by the Institute itself and paved the way for further expansion of the Institute as an academic institution. The faculty members and the supporting staff belong to diverse interdisciplinary backgrounds with specialisation in some core areas of population sciences, trained in India and abroad.

The Institute is the hub of population and health-related teaching and research in India, playing a vital role in the planning and development of the country. Students from different countries of Asia and the Pacific region, Africa and North America have been trained at the Institute. The alumni of IIPS hold prestigious positions in national and international organisations, universities, and reputed non-governmental organisations.

The Institute offers different Post-graduate, Doctoral, and Post-doctoral courses with scholarships/fellowships from the Government of India. After completing the course, students are well prepared for admission to higher degree programmes in the best universities of the world; a good career in teaching and research; a multi-disciplinary professional career in development organisations; and as independent consultants

IIPS Newsletter

Published by Publication Cell

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088

[For further details, visit IIPS website <http://www.iipsindia.ac.in>](http://www.iipsindia.ac.in)