



(स्थापना / Established in 1956)
बेहतर भविष्य के लिए क्षमता निर्माण
Capacity Building for a Better Future

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION SCIENCES

NEP SAARTHI

ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2025

2025-2026



NEP 2020 - SAARTHI OCTOBER 2025 ACTIVITY

Activity: Nukkad Natak to raise awareness about NEP 2020

Event Details:

Date: 17th October 2025

Time: 05:00 P.M. – 06:30 P.M.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Participants: Master's and Ph. D students

Venue: Playground, IIPS

Jury Members for the Nukkad Natak:

- 1) Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, NEP Coordinator
- 2) Dr. Sarang P. Pedgaonkar, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan Coordinator

NEP SAARTHI Volunteers:

- 1) Mr. Ankit Gupta
- 2) Ms. Harsha Shyjinlin
- 3) Ms. Sayantani Das Majumder

List of participants:

S. No.	Participant Name	Group Theme and No. of Participants	Position
1	Mr. Manish Kumar Sharma	Team: Manish Kumar Sharma Group Theme: Nari Shiksha, Nayi Shiksha, Nayi Udaan No. of Participants: 9	First Rank
2	Ms. Tribeni Sonowal		
3	Ms. Poulami Sarkar		
4	Ms. Lakhi Mondal		
5	Ms. Rakhi Bharati		
6	Ms. Ananya Barman		
7	Mr. Dhanpati Mahato		
8	Ms. Trilochana Miniaka		
9	Mr. Amir Ali		
10	Mr. Akash Kumar Pandey	Team: Akash Kumar Pandey Group Theme: Apni Bhasha, Apna Gyaan No. of Participants: 7	Second Rank
11	Ms. Sakshi Jain		
12	Mr. Chirag Sadhwani		
13	Mr. Nitin Kumar		
14	Mr. Sunil Sahoo		
15	Mr. Rushikesh Bhosale		
16	Ms. Piya Barman		
17	Ms. Anshu Priya	Team: Anshu Priya Group Theme: Women Empowerment No. of Participants: 8	Third Rank
18	Ms. Neeloo Bharti		
19	Ms. Debarati Das		
20	Ms. Tanu Kumari		
21	Ms. Ahana Mukherjee		
22	Mr. Tanmay Kumar Behera		
23	Mr. Akshay Kumar Deka		
24	Ms. Harshita Kumari		

25	Mr. Vikas Kumar Mishra	Team: Vikas Kumar Mishra Group Theme: Alakhshakti (Inclusive Education) No. of Participants: 9	Participant
26	Ms. Sristee Debnath		
27	Ms. Anjali Bodra		
28	Mr. Suyog Mishra		
29	Mr. Shantanu Singh		
30	Mr. Satwik Shrey		
31	Mr. Sourav Kumar		
32	Mr. Sandeep Kumar Verma		
33	Mr. Nimish		

All the participants and coordinators were presented with a specially designed cap symbolizing “चरैवेति चरैवेति” as a token of appreciation for their enthusiastic involvement, representing continuous progress, perseverance and the pursuit of knowledge.

Report– Nukkad Natak to raise awareness about NEP 2020

A Nukkad Natak was organized on 17th October 2025, from 05:00 P.M. to 06:30 P.M., at the IIPS Playground to raise awareness about the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event was conducted under the NEP SAARTHI initiative, aiming to sensitize students and the academic community about the key objectives and reforms envisioned in NEP 2020.

Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Senior Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS, inaugurated the programme. Prof. Chander Shekhar, highlighted the key initiatives of NEP 2020, emphasizing the policy’s focus on gender equality, inclusivity and holistic development in education. Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, NEP Coordinator, Dr. Sarang P. Pedgaonkar, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan Coordinator and Dr. Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the various initiatives and transformative aspects of NEP 2020.

Nukkad Natak witnessed enthusiastic participation from Master’s and Ph.D. students, who vividly depicted the vision and goals of NEP 2020 through their performances. These

creative presentations encouraged active dialogue among students about the significance of NEP's reforms in transforming the Indian education system.

Themes of the Nukkad Natak Performances

- **Nari Shiksha, Nayi Shiksha, Nayi Udaan**

The performance highlighted women's empowerment through education, reflecting NEP 2020's vision of equal opportunities and gender equality.

- **Apni Bhasha, Apna Gyaan**

This act emphasized the importance of learning in one's mother tongue, aligning with NEP 2020's focus on promoting Indian languages and cultural identity.

- **Women Empowerment**

The play portrayed the challenges faced by women in society and showcased how education under NEP 2020 can serve as a powerful tool for their empowerment.

- **Alakhshakti (Inclusive Education)**

This performance focused on inclusivity and equitable access to education, highlighting NEP 2020's commitment to reaching every learner, including those from marginalized or disadvantaged groups, aligning with the vision of the SEDG Cell.

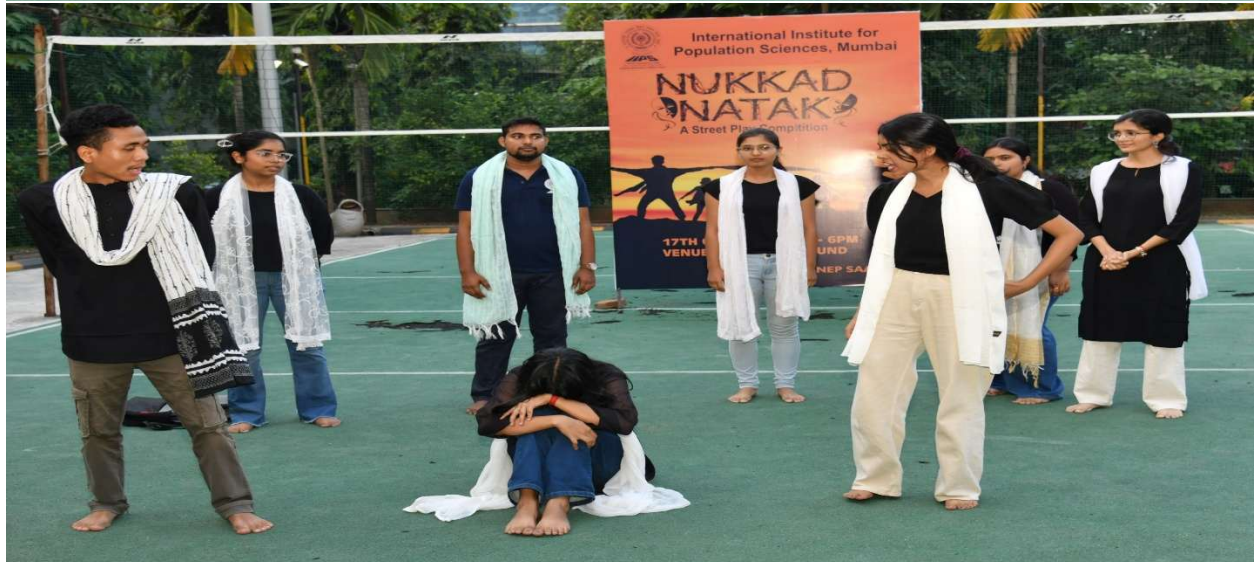
The event concluded with the announcement of the winners.

The Nukkad Natak on "Raising Awareness about NEP 2020" proved to be an engaging and impactful initiative under the NEP SAARTHI programme. It successfully combined creativity, collaboration and education to foster awareness and understanding of the policy among students, faculty members and staff at IIPS.

Photographs

















INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION SCIENCES, MUMBAI

Deemed to be University

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India)

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

SAARTHI Newsletter

Highlighting IIPS initiatives and activities for awareness on the
National Education Policy 2020

October 2025

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About IIPS

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) serves as a regional Institute for Training and Research in Population Studies for the ESCAP region. It was established in Mumbai in July 1956, till July 1970 it was known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) and till 1985 it was known as the International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS). 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 to be University' in 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 recognized degrees by the Institute itself and paved the way for further expansion of the Institute as an academic institution.

Started in 1956 under the joint sponsorship of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government of India and the United Nations, it has established itself as the premier Institute for training and research in Population Studies for developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region. IIPS holds a unique position among all the regional centres, in that it was the first such centre to be started, and serves a much larger population than that served by any of the other regional centres. The Institute is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Besides teaching and research activities, the Institute also provides consultancy to the Government and Non-Government organizations and other academic institutions. Over the years, the Institute has helped in building a nucleus of professionals in the field of population and health in various countries of the ESCAP region.

During the past 53 years, students from 42 different countries of Asia and the Pacific region, Africa and North America have been trained at the Institute. Many, who are trained at the Institute, now occupy key positions in the field of Population and Health in Government of various countries, Universities and Research Institutes as well as in reputed National and International organizations.

ABOUT NEP 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is India's first education policy of the 21st century, designed to transform the education system in line with the needs of the modern world and the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4). It focuses on holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary education that fosters creativity, critical thinking, ethics, and emotional intelligence.

Rooted in India's rich heritage of knowledge and learning, the policy draws inspiration from ancient institutions like Takshashila and Nalanda, which emphasized the pursuit of knowledge (Jnan), wisdom (Pragyaa), and truth (Satya). NEP 2020 envisions revamping all aspects of education—from curriculum and pedagogy to governance—to nurture every learner's full potential.

Teachers are placed at the center of this reform, recognized as key agents in shaping the next generation. The policy aims to empower educators through training, autonomy, and respect, while ensuring accountability and quality.

NEP 2020 also emphasizes inclusive and equitable education, ensuring access for historically marginalized and disadvantaged groups. It envisions education as the greatest tool for social and economic mobility, fostering national pride and cultural understanding while preparing learners for global challenges.

In line with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, IIPS has started its first-year NEP batch this year. This marks a new beginning for the institute in adopting a more flexible and multidisciplinary approach to learning. The aim is to help students grow with strong analytical and research skills while staying connected to real-world needs and social values.

IIPS NEP Team and SAARTHI

Prof. Dewaram A. Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge)

Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, NEP Coordinator

Dr. Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator

Mr. Sudarshan Bhadra, Nodal Officer (AISHE & UTSAH Portal)

Mr. Ankit Gupta, NEP SAARTHI

Ms. Harsha Shyjinlin, NEP SAARTHI

Ms. Sayantani Das Majumder, NEP SAARTHI

Ms. Avni Goel, Research Officer (NEP)

IIPS NEP SAARTHI

NEP SAARTHI is a student-driven initiative launched under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to promote active participation and awareness among students about the vision and goals of the policy. The term ‘SAARTHI’ means a guide or facilitator and true to its name, NEP SAARTHIs act as changemakers who help in spreading the essence of NEP within their institutions. They play a key role in connecting students, faculty members and staff by organizing events, discussions, and activities that reflect the core values of the policy such as holistic development, multidisciplinary learning, flexibility and inclusivity.

The selection of NEP SAARTHI students is carried out through a nomination process led by the Head of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as per UGC guidelines. HEIs may conduct written tests and interviews on NEP to ensure a transparent and merit-based selection. The nominated students are expected to demonstrate strong communication, leadership, creativity and organizational skills. Based on these criteria, UGC finalizes and publishes the list of selected NEP SAARTHIs on its official website twice a year.

The main objectives of NEP SAARTHI are to build a strong community of students who understand and promote the principles of NEP 2020, create awareness about new educational opportunities and encourage innovative ideas that improve the overall learning experience. Through this initiative, students not only contribute to the implementation of the policy but also gain valuable leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

At IIPS, the NEP SAARTHI initiative has supported the institute's efforts to align with the NEP 2020 framework, especially with the launch of its first batch under NEP on 12th August 2025. It provided a platform for students to take part in meaningful activities and become active partners in the process of educational transformation.

Orientation by NIEPA

The institute encouraged IIPS NEP SAARTHIs to attend the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Orientation Programme organized by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) as part of the Malviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP) initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Government College, Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh, under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP), organized a one-week NEP Orientation Programme from 15th to 23rd July 2025. All three SAARTHIs, Ms. Sayantani Das Majumder, Ms. Harsha Shyjinlin and Mr. Ankit Gupta, attended this training.

The programme aimed to build awareness and understanding among NEP SAARTHIs about the core principles and transformative vision of the Policy. The orientation was conducted in a hybrid mode from 15th to 23rd July 2025, followed by an assessment on 25th July 2025. IIPS NEP SAARTHIs successfully completed the programme and received certificates from NIEPA.

The sessions covered a wide range of themes including Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education, Indian Knowledge Systems and Multilingualism, Academic Leadership, Governance and Management, Higher Education and Society, Research and Development, Skill Development, Student Diversity and Inclusive Education, and Information and Communication Technology. The programme encouraged continuous learning and peer networking, ultimately framing NEP 2020 as a transformative agenda requiring integrated leadership, rigorous research, collaborative practices, and effective governance to build inclusive, learner-centered education ecosystems.

The orientation enabled NEP SAARTHIs to gain a deeper understanding of NEP 2020 and their role in promoting its implementation within higher educational institutions.

IIPS NEP SAARTHI Helpdesk

IIPS welcomed its new academic cohort on August 12, 2025, inaugurating the 2025-2026 session with around 100 students all over India in Master of Arts /Master of Science in Population Studies, Master of Science in Bio-Statistics and Demography, Master of Science in Survey Research and Data Analytics, and Ph.D. programmes. The day-long orientation featured course-wise briefings by course coordinators, an inspiring address by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS and sessions on anti-ragging, the POSH Act (2013), and mental-health support. The inaugural event was coordinated by Prof. Archana K. Roy. The NEP SAARTHI coordinator, Dr. Kunal Keshri, with the help of NEP SAARTHIs Mr. Ankit Gupta, Ms. Harsha Shyjilin, and Ms. Sayantani Das Majumder, organized five interactive activities at IIPS:

1. Map Your Roots
2. Cultural Snapshot
3. NEP Theme-Based Speak Up
4. Word Drop IIPS
5. One-Day Memory Capsule Card

The events enhanced students' awareness of NEP 2020, fostered cultural exchange, promoted diversity, and holistic education. To further increase visibility and engagement, selfie points highlighting the thrust areas of NEP 2020 were also set up to encourage participation and promote the policy.





IIPS NEP - Activities of NEP SAARTHI

IIPS NEP - Awareness Rally based on NEP 2020 to mark launch of NEP 2020

An awareness rally focusing on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was organized on 29th August 2025 at the IIPS campus. The rally was formally flagged off by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS. Dr. Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of NEP 2020 in transforming the Indian education system. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from IIPS Faculty Members, NEP Coordinators, NEP SAARTHIs, First Year Master's and Ph.D. students, who came together to promote awareness about the transformative goals and thrust areas of NEP 2020. The rally began from the Library Building and moved across the campus, concluding at the same point. Throughout the rally, students actively engaged in slogan-chanting and held creative posters that highlighted the key messages of the policy.

The event not only served as an orientation activity for new students but also fostered awareness about the NEP 2020's vision for a more inclusive, equitable and multi-disciplinary education system in India. It concluded with a group photo session, capturing the collective energy and commitment of the participants. Overall, the rally was successful in its aim to inform, engage, and inspire the academic community about the ongoing educational reforms.



IIPS NEP - A Panel Discussion on the Indian Knowledge System

On 29th August 2025, a panel discussion on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) was held at the MSD Classroom, IIPS, as part of the NEP SAARTHI initiative. The session engaged First Year Master's and Ph.D. students, along with NEP Coordinators, SAARTHIs, and senior research scholars, in a lively exchange on the relevance of IKS within the framework of NEP 2020.

The session opened with a welcome by Mr. Ankit Gupta, followed by an address from Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS. Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, NEP Coordinator and Chair, and Dr. Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator and Co-Chair, spoke on how IKS deepens understanding of India's heritage and aligns with NEP's multidisciplinary

vision. Prof. Chattopadhyay also conducted an engaging quiz that drew from India's vast traditions in science, culture, and knowledge systems.

The core discussion featured reflections from Ms. Harsha Shyjinlin, Ms. Sayantani Das Majumder, Mr. Ankit Gupta, Ms. Niharika Awasthi, and Mr. Pankaj Patel, who connected IKS to disciplines like mathematics, geography, economics, and history. Together, they highlighted how indigenous perspectives strengthen academic inquiry while fostering a Viksit Bharat, Vishwa Bandhu Bharat, and Vishwa Guru Bharat.

An open interaction with students followed, closing with a vote of thanks by Ms. Avni Goel, RO (NEP). The event concluded with a group photo, capturing the energy of an evening that truly bridged tradition and innovation, and reaffirmed NEP 2020's vision for holistic, culturally rooted education.



IIPS NEP - Extempore on NEP 2020 Initiatives

On 30th September 2025, IIPS hosted an Extempore Competition on the diverse initiatives of NEP 2020 at the MSD Classroom, 2nd Floor, Library Building. Organized under the NEP SAARTHI initiative, the event brought together First Year Master's and Ph.D. students for an engaging evening of quick thinking and informed expression.

The session was inaugurated by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), IIPS, with Dr. Kunal Keshri, NEP SAARTHI Coordinator, outlining the key objectives of NEP 2020. Participants were assigned topics through a lucky dip, testing their ability to articulate spontaneous perspectives on policy themes such as Multidisciplinary Education, Academic Bank of Credits, Gender Equity, Skill Development, and Digital Empowerment.



IIPS NEP - Poster Competition (NEP 2020)

A Poster Competition was held on 30th September 2025, from 5:30 to 6:00 P.M., in the MSD Classroom, 2nd Floor, Library Building, IIPS, as part of the NEP SAARTHI initiative. First-year Master's and Ph.D. students brought key themes of NEP 2020 to life, translating policy ideas into creative visual narratives. The esteemed jury comprised Prof. Murali Dhar and Dr. Harihar Sahoo. Eleven participants submitted posters reflecting holistic education, equity, flexibility, creativity, digital integration, and teacher empowerment. Through motifs of books, trees, children, and light bulbs, the posters captured growth, knowledge, innovation, and inclusion. Overall, they offered a striking visual reflection of NEP 2020, celebrating India's cultural roots while highlighting the role of teachers and learners in shaping a progressive, knowledge-driven future.



IIPS NEP - Nukkad Natak Competition

As part of NEP 2020 awareness activities, NEP Saarthi conducted a street play competition on 17th October 2025 at the IIPS Playground. The event aimed to creatively engage students with NEP themes such as holistic education, inclusivity, and women empowerment.

The competition featured four teams performing on the topics: Women Power: New Education, New Wings, Apni Bhasha, Apna Gaurav, Women Empowerment, and Inclusive Education. Each play creatively highlighted key aspects of NEP 2020 through engaging narratives, dialogues, and performances.

The street play “Naari Shiksha, Nayi Udaan” (Women Power: New Education) depicted the story of Chanda, a young girl aspiring to study despite her father’s traditional mindset. With the support of her teacher, the play emphasized the importance of girls’ education and how empowering one girl can uplift an entire family. It beautifully reflected the spirit of NEP 2020 by promoting equality, inclusivity, and the right to education for every child. This team received the first prize.

The street play “Apni Bhasha, Apna Gyaan” highlighted the importance of learning in one’s mother tongue, a core idea of NEP 2020. It showed how studying in local languages strengthens understanding, preserves cultural roots, and promotes inclusivity. The performance emphasized that intelligence is not defined by English proficiency but by the confidence and clarity gained through one’s own language, celebrating linguistic diversity and equality in education.

The street play “Women Power: New Education, New Wings” focused on women’s empowerment through education within the framework of NEP 2020. It portrayed the challenges faced by girls, such as gender discrimination and educational barriers, while contrasting the reverence for women as goddesses with the injustices they endure. A turning point came when a teacher introduced NEP’s inclusive and digital learning opportunities, reviving hope and showing how education can uplift and empower women. The play concluded with a powerful slogan, reinforcing that NEP promotes equality, freedom, and transformation, giving women new wings to soar beyond social limits.

The street play Inclusive Education creatively portrayed the vision of NEP 2020 through the struggles of students facing barriers like disability and financial hardship. With rhythmic dialogues and emotional scenes, it highlighted themes of inclusivity, accessibility, and re-entry in education. The performance ended with a powerful message that learning is a lifelong right and NEP 2020 empowers every learner to rise beyond limitations.

The performances were team-based, and all participants received caps as a token of participation. Certificates for the street play winners will be awarded later, while certificates for the extempore and poster competition winners were distributed during the programme.

The event was attended by approximately 80-100 students, successfully combining learning with creativity and leaving a memorable experience for all participants.



Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan at IIPS

IIPS, under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan — a nationwide health initiative by the Government of India — organized health check-up camps and awareness activities on women's health from September 17 to October 2, 2025. Dr. Sarang P. Pedgaonkar served as the nodal officer for this initiative, which was inaugurated by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge).

On September 30, 2025, a health check-up camp for school students was held at Govandi Education Society (R.S.T. Madhyamik Vidyalaya), covering nutritional assessment, ENT and dental screening, and clinical examination for anaemia. On the same day, Dr. Shireen J. Jejeebhoy and Dr. Aparajita Chattopadhyay conducted an engaging session on Menstruation Awareness and Hygiene for schoolgirls. The session encouraged open dialogue, addressed misconceptions, and discussed menstrual products, WASH challenges, and hygiene practices.

All participants received hygiene kits and individual health guidance. Dr. Sarang P. Pedgaonkar, and the IIPS medical team ensured smooth conduct of the check-ups, with strong support from student volunteers throughout the event.







Closing Note: Carrying Forward the Spirit of NEP 2020 at IIPS, Mumbai

As the NEP SAARTHI activities at IIPS draw to a close for 2025, what stood out was not just the scale of participation but the sincerity and enthusiasm that each event inspired. From creative expressions to thoughtful discussions, every initiative showed how NEP 2020 is gradually taking shape within the IIPS community as a lived experience rather than a distant policy.

Through rallies, help desks, dialogues, and competitions, students and faculty worked together to translate ideas into action, encouraging awareness and collaboration across disciplines. The collective effort of NEP Coordinators, SAARTHIs, and participants turned these activities into spaces of learning, reflection, and genuine engagement.

The year's initiatives reminded us that meaningful change begins with awareness and grows through shared effort. As we move forward, the goal remains clear — to keep nurturing curiosity, inclusivity, and dialogue, carrying the spirit of NEP 2020 forward at IIPS.