

Annual Report

2018-19



Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy

New Delhi



Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA)

Integrating Research with Grassroots Development and Social Justice

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Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA) presents its 3rd Annual Report. It covers the period from April 2018 to March 2019. It is the year when IPSA can be seen carving out its niche in the academic world by engaging itself in different studies and advocacy events. However, the release of its research report on the implementation of SDGs in Uttar Pradesh during the term remains a much appreciated achievement. Moreover, it has been the year when IPSA organized a workshop in association with a central university on a relevant theme. IPSA was also requested by some activist groups working at grassroots level to help them in their capacity building.

1. Study on Implementation of SDGs in UP

As its first grassroots level research project, IPSA undertook a study on the implementation of SDGs at local level in Uttar Pradesh during 2017-18. It selected two blocks of Balrampur District of the state for data collection and brought out IPSA Working Paper No. 1 on 'Issues and Challenges in Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: An Assessment of Uttar Pradesh' by August 2018. The report was released in a state level consultation, held at Lucknow on 15 September 2018. A team of IPSA participated in this consultation, jointly organized by IPSA and Giri Institute of Development Studies at the latter's seminar hall. The study was discussed for its findings and appreciated by many experts from the state

for pointing out the gaps and challenges in the implementation of SDGs in the state, particularly in the context of minorities.

2. Workshop on Social Media

IPSA has organized in association with Centre for Culture, Media & Governance (CCMG) of Jamia Millia Islamia, a workshop on 'Social Media: Emerging Issues and Challenges' at the university campus itself, on 12-13 October 2018. The Department of Law of this central university has also formally joined as organizers. Mir Anis Hall where the event was held remained almost packed with audience and thought-provoking presentations were made by eminent experts in the field of social media; including academicians, activists and legal experts. Besides the inaugural and valedictory sessions, six business sessions were held, joined by some 80 participants from about a dozen universities and a number of associates of media portals and advocacy organizations. They belonged to eight states, though mostly from Delhi. Students and research scholars of Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University, Aligarh Muslim University, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Vivekananda Institute of Policy Studies (VIPS), etc and local youths comprised majority of the audience.

In the inaugural session, IPSA president Dr Abdul Rashid Agwan welcomed the guests and the keynote was presented by Professor Biswajit Das, Director of CCMG. Dr Jawed Alam, Advisor of IPSA, extended the vote of thanks.

In the first session, discussion was held on the theme 'Understanding the Power and Impact of Social Media', which was chaired by Prof. Saima Saeed of CCMG and addressed by Dr Sunetra Sen Narayana of Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

In the second session, the theme 'Surveillance and the State' in the context of social media was discussed by Adv. Usha Ramanathan, who tirelessly petitioned against the presumed essentiality of Aadhaar project of the central government. The session was chaired by Dr Mohd. Asad Malik, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia.

Advocate turned activist Apar Gupta, the Executive Director of Internet Freedom Foundation was the speaker of the third session who discussed the theme 'Laws

Regulating Social Media’. Prof. Eqbal Hussain of Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, chaired the session. It was the last session of the first day of the national symposium.

The Session IV began early morning on the second day and focused on the theme ‘Social Media and Self-Regulation’. Dr Ghazala Jamil, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), was the speaker of the session, which was chaired by Prof. Kahkashan Danyal, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia.



In the fifth session, Dr Anubhuti Yadav of Indian Institute of Mass Communication expressed her views as regards ‘Tracking Fake News in Social Media’. The session was chaired by Dr Manoj NY, CCMG, Jamia Millia Islamia. Dr Debarati Dhar of VIPS was the discussant.

The last business session was held on the theme 'Reconstructing Credible Social Media' with a focus to underline the way ahead and was chaired by the editor of Policy Times Akram Hoque and well-known journalist Rajesh K. Mahapatra was the speaker on the theme.



The concluding session of the two-day workshop began with an open discussion of the participants, steered by Dr Manjo NY of CCMG, Jamia Millia Islamia. He first presented an overview of the discussions held in different sessions and invited the participants to discuss what should be the future course in social media.

3. National Symposium on SDGs

IPSA and the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, a Delhi-based central university, have agreed by January 2019 to hold a National Symposium on SDGs on

15 April 2019. Accordingly, due preparations have taken off including invitations to the resource persons and registration of the participants. Professor Ashraf Ilyan of the department has agreed to be the convener of the Symposium and the IPSA President Abdul Rashid Agwan was designated as the co-convener of the National Symposium.

4. Consultation on SDGs in UP

IPSA and Giri Institute of Development Studies (GIDS), Lucknow organized a day-long Consultation on 'Assessing Three Years of Inclusive Development under SDGs in Uttar Pradesh' at GIDS, Lucknow on 15 September 2018. Jawed Alam Khan represented IPSA and addressed a session on 'SDGs and Socially Inclusive Policies'. Other associates of IPSA, Dr Manjur Ali and Imran Ansari, also joined it. On this occasion, the IPSA Working Paper No. 1 was released.

5. PBI Consultation on Budget

People's Budget Initiative (PIB) organized a National Consultation on 'Budget Justice for Addressing Inequalities' at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 15 March 2018. A team of IPSA including Abdul Rashid Agwan, Jawed Alam Khan, Dr Manjur Ali, Imran Khan and Ashfaq Ahmad joined it.

6. Shamli Workshop

On the request of Afkar India Foundation, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh, a training workshop was conducted by IPSA's Advisor Jawed Alam Khan on 27 June 2018. A number of volunteers associated with the host organization joined the program which was focused on the Government schemes for minorities.

The following topics were covered in the workshop: Understanding of general concepts of budget, Budget making processes in India, Understanding planning and budgeting in MSDP and Implementation of PM New 15-Point Programme. A Question & Answer session that followed further clarified the concepts to the participants well.



7. Workshop of Astitwa Foundation, UP

Astitwa Foundation, a grassroots level organisation, working with oppressed and marginalized communities on social issues in the District Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) organized a workshop on 18 November 2018 for the training and orientation of its volunteers and local activists to become human rights defenders. Mr Jawed Alam Khan of IPSA was the key resource person of the program and conducted the workshop on 'Operationalising Schemes for Minorities'. The main agenda of the event was to create awareness and building capacities of HRDs as regards MSDP.

8. National Seminar on CSR

A Delhi-based thinktank, The Policy Times, organized a national seminar on 'Role of Corporate Foundations in Inclusive Development' in the cooperation of the Department of Commerce and Business Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi on 18 December 2018. IPSA has cooperated with the organizers in holding the event and IPSA's president Abdul Rashid Agwan delivered a talk on 'The Role Corporate Social Responsibility' in the seminar. A number of leading CSR foundation, businessmen and management experts joined the event.

9. Studies on Municipal Budget for Urban Poor

IPSA was requested by a Mumbai-based organization, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), to undertake a series of studies on municipal budgets of some selected cities of India for understanding the state of urban poor there. The contract was signed between the two organizations in December 2018.

10. Training Workshop on Tracking Budgets for Minorities

IPSA conducted a Training Workshop on Tracking Budgets for Minorities for team of Dynamic Action Group (DAG). It was conducted on November 18, 2018 at Saharnpur, Uttar Pradesh. In the workshop, participants were provided knowledge on functioning of PM Jan Vikas Karyakram, previously the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, as well as on PM New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities.