



Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS)

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
(Accredited Grade "A+" by NAAC)



Activity Report 2024-2025

Submitted By:

AIPRIS

Activity 1: Ideas of India's Eminent Educational Thinkers and Transformative Education Through NEP-2020



The poster for the National Seminar is titled "IDEAS OF INDIA'S EMINENT EDUCATIONAL THINKERS AND TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION THROUGH NEP - 2020". It is dated "27 - 28 February 2025". The event is jointly organized by the School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. The venue for the first day (27 February 2025) is the Conference Hall, Mahatma Gandhi Bhavan, CUG Campus, Kundhela (Dist: Vadodara). The venue for the second day (28 February 2025) is the Auditorium, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, MSU Campus. The poster lists four Chief Patrons: Rajmata Shubhanginiraje Gaekwad (Hon'ble Chancellor, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda), Dr. Hasmukh Adhia (Hon'ble Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat), Prof. Dhanesh Patel (Hon'ble I/c Vice Chancellor, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda), and Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat).

NATIONAL SEMINAR

IDEAS OF INDIA'S EMINENT EDUCATIONAL THINKERS AND TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION THROUGH NEP - 2020

27 - 28 February 2025

Jointly Organised by
School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat
&
Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Venue:

27 February 2025 - Conference Hall, Mahatma Gandhi Bhavan,
CUG Campus, Kundhela (Dist: Vadodara)

28 February 2025 - Auditorium, Department of Chemical Engineering,
Faculty of Technology and Engineering, MSU Campus

Chief Patrons

Rajmata Shubhanginiraje Gaekwad
Hon'ble Chancellor
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia
Hon'ble Chancellor
Central University of Gujarat

Patrons

Prof. Dhanesh Patel
Hon'ble I/c Vice Chancellor
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Central University of Gujarat

Program Name: Ideas of India's Eminent Educational Thinkers and Transformative Education Through NEP-2020

Program Type: National Seminar

Date: 27th and 28th February 2025

No. of Participants: Approx. 250

Objective: To revisit and reflect on the educational visions of India's leading thinkers and their alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with a view to inspiring policy, pedagogy, and academic inquiry rooted in Indian knowledge systems.

Fees: Not Applicable

Speaker: Not Applicable

Time: 09:30 AM (IST)

Total days: 02

Venue:

- Day 1: Conference Hall, Mahatma Gandhi Bhavan, CUG Campus, Kundhela
- Day 2: Auditorium, Department of Chemical Engineering, Kala Bhavan, MSU Campus

Event Summary: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies and the School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat, jointly organized a two-day National Seminar on "Ideas of India's Eminent Educational Thinkers and Transformative Education through NEP - 2020" on 27th and 28th February 2025. The seminar brought together distinguished scholars, policy experts, and academic leaders to revisit and reflect upon the educational visions of prominent Indian thinkers and their relevance to the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The inaugural function featured addresses by eminent dignitaries, including Rajmata Shubhanginiraje Gaekwad, Hon'ble Chancellor of MSU, and Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of CUG. The keynote address was delivered by Shri Laxman Guntha, noted social thinker, who emphasized the need for value-based and context-rooted education. Prof. Amit Dholakia, Director of AIPRIS, introduced the seminar theme, highlighting the importance of aligning India's philosophical heritage with contemporary educational reforms.

The sessions across both days explored the contributions and educational philosophies of leading figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sri Aurobindo, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, J. Krishnamurti, and Rabindranath Tagore. Speakers included senior faculty members and educationists from prestigious institutions such as the University of Delhi, North Bengal University, Central University of Haryana, Sardar Patel University, and BHU.

Thought-provoking discussions emphasized the intersection of spirituality, ethics, nationalism, and pedagogy in Indian thought, and how these can inform the transformative vision of NEP 2020. The seminar sessions were intellectually enriching, facilitating inter-institutional dialogue and encouraging deeper engagement with Indian knowledge systems.

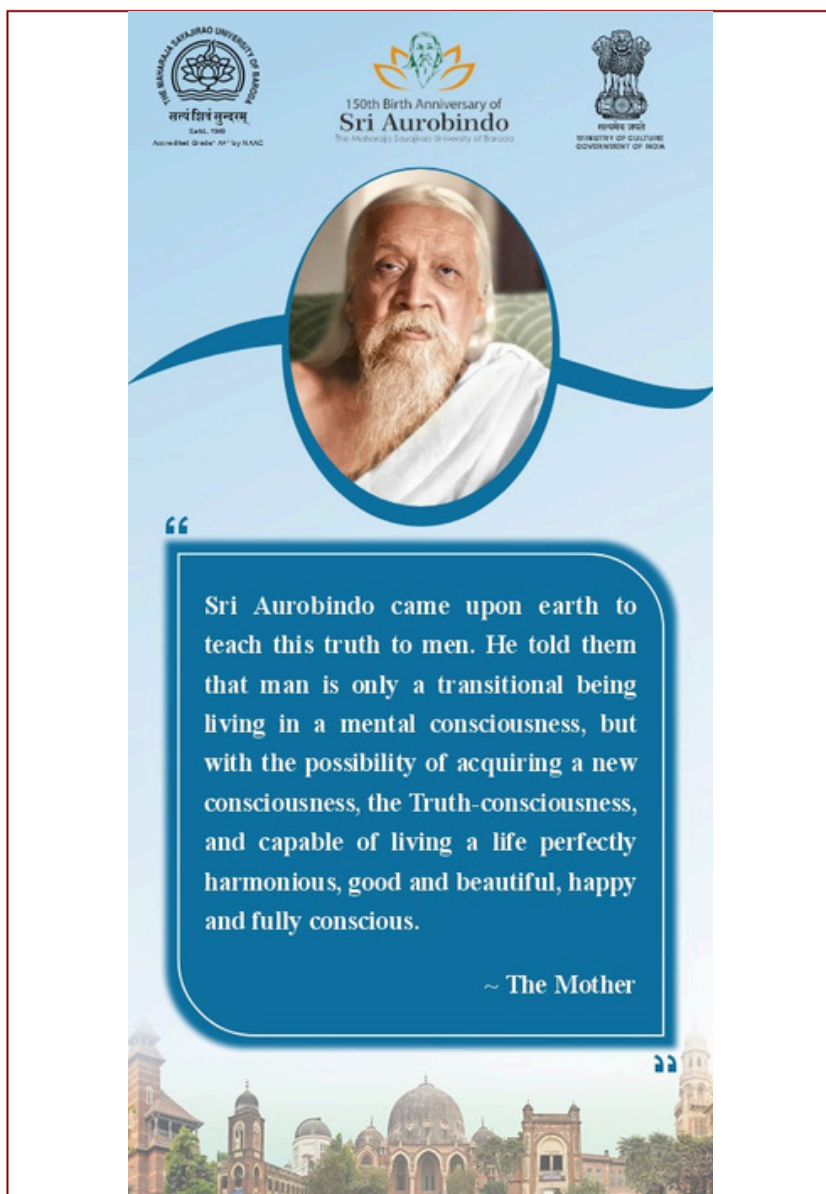
The event concluded with a valedictory session that featured reflections by Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Chairperson of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, and vote of thanks by Dr. Deepti Acharya. The seminar proved highly beneficial for students, researchers, and faculty alike, offering a renewed understanding of India's educational legacy and its critical role in shaping future educational paradigms.

Event Gallery





Activity 2: Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo



Program Name:
Commemoration of the
150th Birth Anniversary
of Sri Aurobindo
Program Type:
Workshop

Date: 1st March 2025

No. of Participants:
Approx. 20

Objective: To facilitate
insightful discussions on
key aspects of the
project.

Time: 10:00 AM (IST)

Total days: 01

Venue: AIPRIS
Conference Room, MSU
Baroda

Speakers:

- Dr. Jyotiben Thanki – Eminent Scholar
- Dr. Bhalendu Vaishnav – Professor and Head, Department of Medicine, Pramukhswami Medical College, Bhaikaka University
- Dr. Utpala Kharod – Provost, Bhaikaka University
- Prof. Vibha Vaishnav – Associate Professor, Department of Electronics, Sardar Patel University
- Prof. Bhagirath Brahmbhatt – Former Head, Department of Gujarat, Sardar Patel University
- Dr. Beloo Mehra – Director, Sri Aurobindo Society
- Prof. Ranjita Chakraborty – Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, University of North Bengal
- Dr. Shaurya Brahmbhatt – Department of English, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Event Summary: The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, organized a workshop on the Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo on 1st March 2025.

The event aimed to foster insightful discussions on Sri Aurobindo's life, philosophy, and contributions, and encouraged meaningful engagement among scholars and experts. The workshop was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including Dr. Jyotiben Thanki, Dr. Bhalendu Vaishnav, Dr. Utpala Kharod, Prof. Vibha Vaishnav, Prof. Bhagirath Brahmbhatt, Dr. Beloo Mehra, Prof. Ranjita Chakraborty, and Dr. Shaurya Brahmbhatt. Their presence and insights enriched the deliberations and contributed significantly to the academic and commemorative value of the event.

Event Gallery



Activity 3: Sustainable Development Goals: The Indian Context



ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INSTITUTE OF POLICY RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
THE MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY OF BARODA
Vadodara, Gujarat - 390002
Accredited Grade 'A+' by NACC



Short Duration Certificate Course (Online)
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE INDIAN CONTEXT
To achieve peace and prosperity for people and the planet, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an action-oriented framework for developing and developed countries. India is uniquely positioned as an economy in transition, where the challenges of 1.4 billion people need to be understood with indigenous perspective. India's achievement of the SDGs will be important for global sustainability.
The course will provide an introduction to the Indian efforts to achieve SDGs.

WHO CAN BENEFIT?

• Faculty members in education institutions	• Researchers
• Graduate and postgraduate students of any discipline	• Doctoral students
• Development sector professionals	• Teachers
• Policy-makers	• CSR professionals
	• Interested citizens, etc

REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://msubaroda.ac.in/academics/IPRIS/Programs/729>
APPLICATION DATES: 13TH JANUARY 2025 TO 15TH FEBRUARY 2025

Course Details:

- Duration: February to April 2025
- Credits: 02 Credits (30 hours)
- Seats Available: 40
- Fee: Rs 3000/-
- Mode: Online
- Minimum Eligibility: Graduation or a Diploma in any discipline.
- Opportunity to learn from national and international experts.
- Minimum 75% attendance for the lectures and associated activities is must.
- The evaluation will be based on the assignment and presentation.
- Course will begin from 22nd February 2025.

Course Executive Team:

- Director: Prof. Amit Dholakia
- Coordinator: Prof. Yogesh Vinayak Gokhale
- Assistant Coordinator: Ms. Ami Merwana

SCHEDULE:
Thursday & Friday: 05:30 PM to 07:30 PM
Saturday: 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS),
Maharaja Pratapsinhrao Gaekwad Parisar, Beside Faculty of Law, opp. The M.S. University of Baroda
Head Office,, Fatehgunj,
Vadodara, Gujarat (INDIA) 390002
✉ office-aipris@msubaroda.ac.in



Program Name:

Sustainable Development Goals: The Indian Context

Program Type: Short Online Course

Date: February to April 2025

Total Seats Available: Approx. 40

Objective: To provide an understanding of India's efforts and challenges in achieving the SDGs.

Venue: Online

Total days: Not Applicable

Speaker: Not Applicable

Time: Every Thursday and Friday from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, and Saturday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

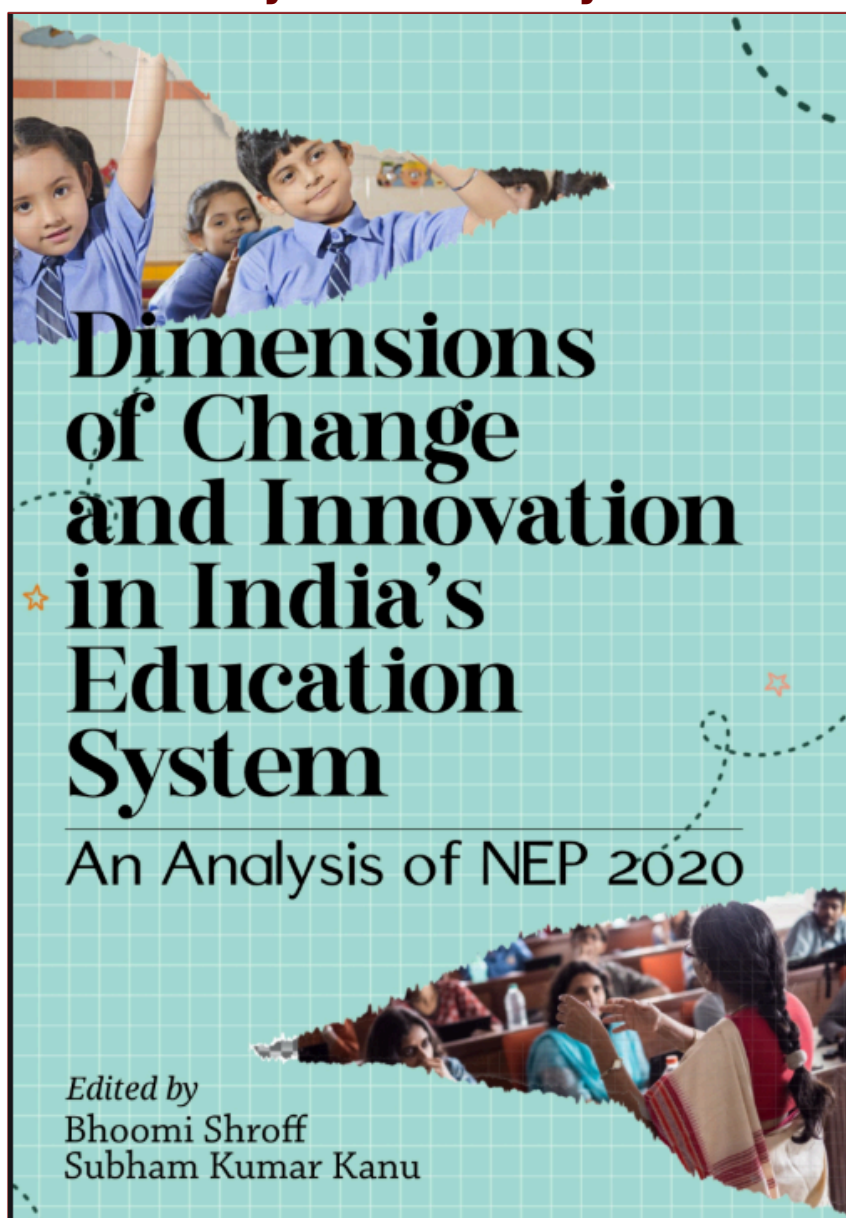
Event Summary: The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, launched an online short-duration certificate course titled "Sustainable Development Goals: The Indian Context" to introduce participants to India's unique approach and challenges in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The course aimed to highlight how India, as an economy in transition with a population of 1.4 billion, must be understood through an indigenous lens while aligning with global sustainability frameworks. It provided an action-oriented framework focused on peace, prosperity, and sustainability, tailored to both developing and developed country contexts.

The program attracted a wide range of participants, including faculty members, graduate and doctoral students, development professionals, CSR practitioners, researchers, and policy enthusiasts. Delivered in an interactive online format, the course featured expert-led lectures, assignments, and presentations, with sessions scheduled thrice a week.

Led by Prof. Amit Dholakia (Director) and Prof. Yogesh Vinayak Gokhale (Coordinator), the initiative successfully fostered interdisciplinary learning and encouraged dialogue on India's development priorities and sustainability strategies.

Activity 4: Dimensions of Change and Innovation in India's Education System: An Analysis of NEP 2020



Program Name: Book Publication

Program Type: Book Launch

Date: 27th February 2025

No. of Participants:
Approx. 120

Objective: To provide an understanding of India's efforts and challenges in achieving the SDGs.

Venue: Conference Hall, Mahatma Gandhi Bhavan, CUG Campus, Kundhela

Total days: 01

Speaker: Not Applicable

Time: 11:00 AM (IST)

Event Summary: The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, has published the book titled "Dimensions of Change and Innovation in India's Education System: An Analysis of NEP 2020", edited by Ms. Bhoomi Shroff and Mr. Subham Kumar Kanu.

This book was formally released during the inaugural session of the National Seminar held on February 27-28, 2025, at the Conference Hall, Mahatma Gandhi Bhavan, Central University of Gujarat (CUG) Campus, Kundhela, Vadodara. The seminar, themed “Ideas of India’s Eminent Educational Thinkers and Transformative Education through NEP 2020”, was jointly organized by the School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat, and AIPRIS, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Rajmata Shubhanginiraje Gaekwad, Honorable Chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda; Prof. Dhanesh Patel, Honorable In-Charge Vice Chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda; Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat; and Shri Laxman Guntha, Social Thinker, among others.

This book is a compilation of project work undertaken by MA students as part of their academic curriculum. Each year, students are required to submit projects on a designated theme, and last year’s theme focused on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. From the submitted projects, the most insightful and well-researched works were selected and compiled into this book.

The book offers a comprehensive analysis of various dimensions of NEP 2020, covering aspects such as legal analysis, budgetary considerations, the role of mother tongue in education, Anganwadi systems, a comparative study of the Indian and Chinese education systems, vocational education, and educators’ perspectives. It examines the key challenges, implications, and transformative potential of the policy for India’s education system.

The publication of this book represents a valuable academic contribution to ongoing discussions on education reform and policy implementation in India.

Event Gallery



Activity 5: MoU of AIPRIS and Central University of Gujarat



Program Name: MoU of AIPRIS and Central University of Gujarat

Program Type: MoU Signing Ceremony

Date: 24th October 2024

No. of Participants: Approx. 30

Objective: To foster collaborations for academic research and policy studies.

Venue: Vasishtha Sabhaghar, Executive Wing, Head Office, MSU

Total days: 01

Speaker: Not Applicable

Time: 03:30 PM (IST)

Event Summary: The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS), The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, and the School of International Studies (SIS), Central University of Gujarat (CUG), signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to commemorate a new chapter of academic collaboration between the two institutions.

The aim of this MoU is to promote joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchange, and co-hosting of academic programs, with a shared vision to contribute meaningfully to policy studies and global knowledge production.

The event took place in the esteemed presence of Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of CUG, and Col. Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Srivastava, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, who jointly signed the MoU.

Also present were Prof. Amit Dholakia, Director, AIPRIS and Prof. Manish, Dean, SIS, Central University of Gujarat, and other senior officials and faculty members from both institutions. The ceremony highlighted a shared commitment to fostering high-quality academic research, promoting interdisciplinary dialogue, and enhancing institutional capacities.

This collaboration is envisioned to create impactful outcomes in the fields of policy research, international studies, and higher education through collective effort and sustained engagement.

Event Gallery



Activity 6: AIPRIS Internship Program 2024-25

Program Name: AIPRIS Internship Program 2024-25

Program Type: Internship and Certification

Date: Not Applicable

No. of Participants: Approx. 40

Objective: To provide students and early-career professionals with structured, hands-on experience in policy research, data analysis, and interdisciplinary inquiry and celebrating their contributions, dedication, and learning journey through a formal certification and acknowledgment process.

Time: Not Applicable

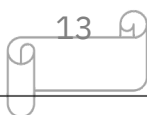
Total days: Not Applicable

Venue: AIPRIS Building, MSU Baroda

Event Summary: Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda organized 'The Internship Program and Certification' for the academic year 2024-25. The program saw active participation from students in both online and offline modes. The primary objectives of the internship were to enhance academic learning, provide exposure to interdisciplinary themes, develop analytical abilities, and foster professional skills among the participants.

The internship was structured around key deliverables such as the submission of research and project-based reports, presentations, and involvement in various organizational activities. Participants included students from prestigious institutions such as Monash University (Melbourne), Sardar Patel University, IIT Bangalore, and IIIT Delhi, contributing to the program's diverse and enriching academic environment.

The presentation of internship certificates marked the culmination of the internship program, commemorating the achievements of the graduating interns. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. Amit Dholakia, whose insightful address deeply resonated with the audience. He shared words of wisdom and encouragement, offering valuable guidance to the interns as they prepared to embark on their professional journeys. His presence added great prestige to the event and served as a source of inspiration, motivating the interns to strive for excellence in their future endeavours.

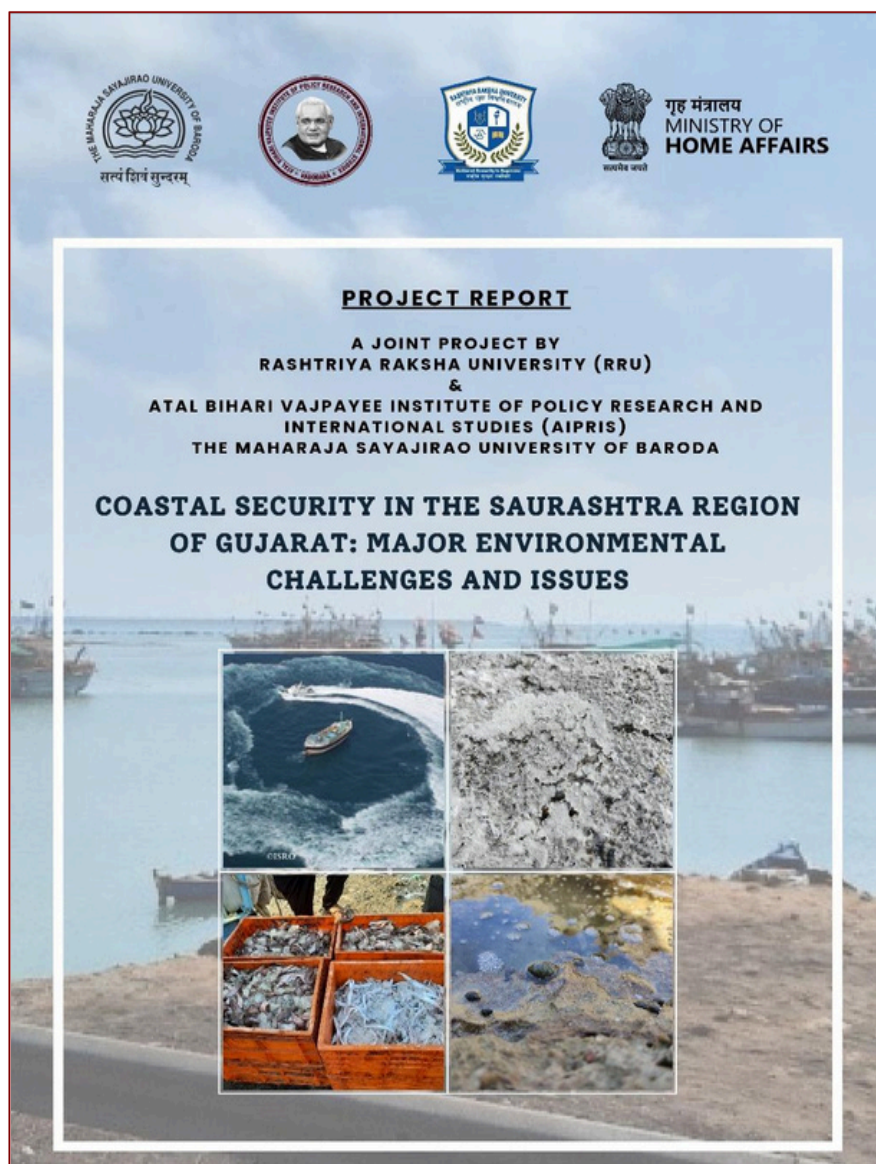


During the ceremony, several interns shared their experiences and learnings, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the faculty members, mentors, and staff who supported them throughout their internship journey. The event was a celebration of achievement, growth, and collaboration within the AIPRIS community. As the interns received their certificates, they departed with a sense of pride and accomplishment. The ceremony stood as a testament to the institute's enduring commitment to nurturing talent and fostering excellence in the fields of research and policy studies.

Event Gallery



Activity 7: Completion of the Project ‘Coastal Security in the Saurashtra Region of Gujarat: Major Environmental Challenges and Issues’



Project Name:

Coastal Security in the Saurashtra Region of Gujarat: Major Environmental Challenges and Issues

Project Type:

A Joint Project between AIPRIS and Rashtriya Raksha University

Date of Final Report Submission:

31st March 2023

No. of Participants:

Not Applicable

Objective:

To address various dimensions of the coastal ecosystem

and their implications for security dynamics in the selected region of the study.

Project Summary: The project titled "Coastal Security in the Saurashtra Region of Gujarat: Major Environmental Challenges and Issues", a joint project between Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS) MSU Baroda and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar, was a comprehensive and the first of its kind study and analysis conducted to understand the complex interplay between coastal security and environmental sustainability in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

The project provided data-driven analysis, actionable policy recommendations, and capacity-building efforts, the project aimed to contribute to the development of sustainable and resilient coastal communities while enhancing security along the Saurashtra coastline.

A significant aspect of the project involved collecting and analysing data on environmental issues prevalent along the Saurashtra coast. This process encompassed gathering information on diverse environmental factors, including pollution, habitat degradation, climate change, and the impacts of natural disasters. Through rigorous analysis, the project sought to identify key environmental challenges affecting coastal security.

The project undertook a comprehensive analysis to examine the intricate relationship between environmental challenges and both conventional and non-conventional security threats. By exploring how environmental degradation exacerbates security risks such as illegal fishing, maritime piracy, and conflicts over resources, the project provided valuable insights into the complex nexus between environment and security.

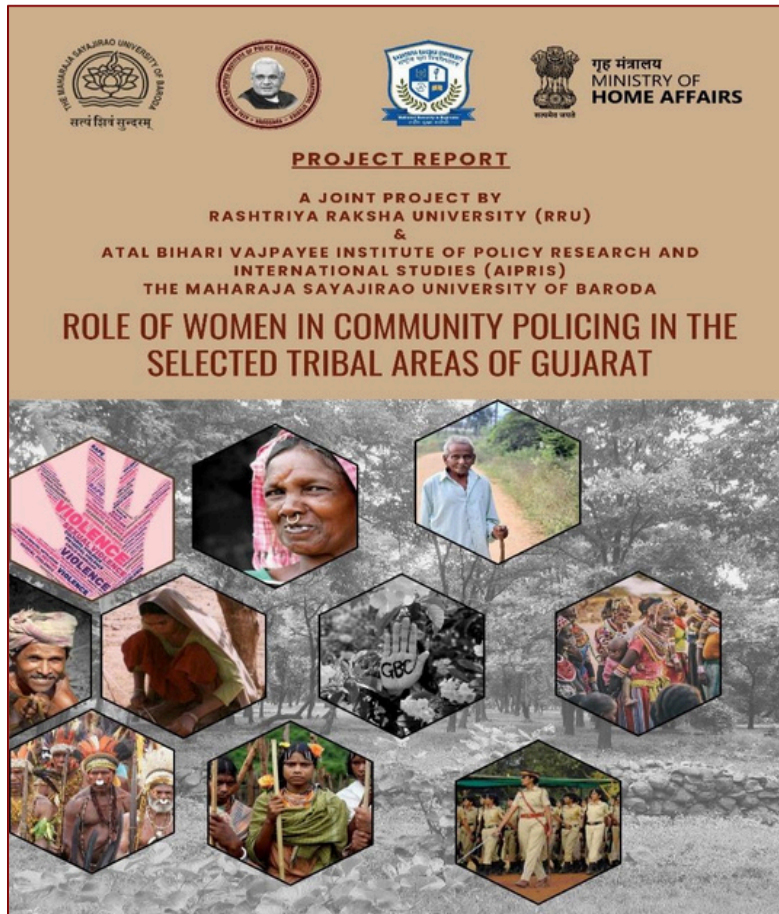
Drawing upon the findings of the analysis, the project offered policy-relevant and actionable recommendations aimed at minimizing the impact of environmental challenges on coastal security. These recommendations included measures to enhance coastal surveillance, strengthen environmental regulations, promote sustainable practices, and facilitate collaboration among relevant stakeholders. The objective was to develop effective strategies for mitigating environmental risks and safeguarding coastal security interests on the Saurashtra coast.

Recognising the importance of stakeholder engagement, the project emphasized sensitization, awareness, and capacity-building initiatives targeting various stakeholders. These efforts aimed to educate and empower coastal communities, government agencies, policymakers, and other key actors to address major environmental issues and security concerns effectively. Through workshops, training programs, and awareness campaigns, the project focused to raise a greater understanding of the interdependence between environmental sustainability and coastal security.

Event Gallery



Activity 8: Completion of the Project 'Role of Women in Community Policing in the Selected Tribal Areas of Gujarat'



Project Name: Role of Women in Community Policing in the Selected Tribal Areas of Gujarat

Project Type: A Joint Project between AIPRIS and Rashtriya Raksha University

Date of Final Report Submission: 31st March 2023

No. of Participants: Not Applicable

Objective: To empower women, enhance community policing strategies, and create a

safer and more inclusive environment for all members of tribal communities.

Project Summary: The project titled "Role of Women in Community Policing in the Selected Tribal Areas of Gujarat", a joint project between Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies (AIPRIS) MSU Baroda and Rashtriya Raksha



University (RRU), Gandhinagar, was a comprehensive and the first of its kind study which aimed at understanding and addressing gender-based

crimes within tribal communities with actionable policy recommendations.

With a multi-faceted approach, the project attempted to make both qualitative and quantitative analyses of the nature, types, and degree of gender-based crimes prevalent in the tribal areas of Gujarat. It sought to document existing community policing strategies in these regions, evaluating their effectiveness in tackling gender-based crimes.

The project further aimed to recommend new and improved community policing strategies tailored specifically to address gender-based crimes in tribal areas. It examined the roles and responsibilities of women working in the police force and proposed recommendations for enhancing their contributions in combating such crimes. This included suggesting new sets of roles or revised responsibilities to empower women within law enforcement agencies effectively.

The project sought to make suitable recommendations for the relevant stakeholders such as NGOs, self-help groups of women, state police force, community-based organizations, and educational institutions to actively engage in reducing gender-based crimes through community policing initiatives. By proposing collaboration between law enforcement and community stakeholders, the project attempted to create a more robust framework for addressing gender-based crimes in tribal areas.

The project aimed to conduct policy-relevant analyses and provide actionable recommendations aimed at increasing the role of women in community policing while effectively reducing gender-based crimes in Gujarat's tribal areas. By addressing systemic challenges and gender inclusivity within law enforcement and community engagement efforts, the project sought to contribute to lasting social change and improved safety and security for tribal communities.

Event Gallery

