



National Confluence on Culture and Public Policy

on 'Reimagining Indian Governance through Cultural and Technological Lenses'

Jointly organised by

Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad

Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management (SJMSoM), Indian Institute of Technology –
Bombay (IIT-B)

And

Samskruti Foundation, Hyderabad

Venue, (SJMSoM), IIT-Bombay

Date: 06.06.2025 to 07.06.2025.

The two day event was organised to deliberate on current approach to public policy in India which is borrowed heavily from western thoughts of 'materialism' in centre which needs to be 'pluralistic' and inclusive' based on Indian ethos and needs of Indian society. Professor Dr. Ashish Pandey, (SJMSoM), IIT-B welcomed the participants and explains the objectives of the conflux. The event was inaugurated with key note address by Honourable Justice R.R. Tripathi, retired judge from Gujarat High court and Former Chairperson of Gujarat Human Rights Commission followed by Dr. Uday M Chaudhari, Director Sanskriti Adhyay Kendra and presidential address by Professor Milind Atrey, Deputy Director, ART, IIT-B. All three speakers emphasise the need for 'Bharatiyata', 'Sahabhagita', 'Sahakarita', 'Sadbhavana' and 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in public administration and policy making. Professor Nisha Pandey, Director, GIDR draws attention towards how India's cultural values are being reflected in its welfare programmes especially in 'housing for all' scheme through PMAY-G and PMAY-U. Professor V Bapat of (SJMSoM) IIT-B, Shree Pradip Joshi of Samskruti Foundation, Prof. D. Shanthakumar, Director, Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar, Shri Ramanand Nand, Director and Co-Founder, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, Professor K.S. Rajani of IIM-Mumbai, Professor Sugandha Malhotra of IIT-B, Shri Yatish Kumar, ex CWM, Eastern Railway, Professor Shankar Das, Vice Chancellor, TISS, Mumbai, Shri Ashok Sharma, IAS, OSD to Honourable Governor of Gujarat, Professor Prasana Kumar of Telengana Pollution Control Board, Professor Manoj Tiwari, Director IIM-Mumbai, Shri Satyajeet Nayak, IPS, Odisha cadre, Professor Omkar D. Palsule-Desai of SJMSoM, IIT-B, Prof. Ruby Oza of SNDT women's university, Mumbai, Professor Medha Tapiwala, Mumbai University, Shri Navin Bhusan, Partner and Global Lead on Agriculture and Food Systems, Shri Subrata Tripathy, Head Public Policy Division, Samskruti Foundation, Shushri Divya Rathore, senior policy analyst, GoI and Shri Sanjay

Pulipaka and Chairperson Politeia Research Foundation gave the special lectures on various themes of the event. Apart from above special lectures, in total 23 insightful research papers on various themes including public policy formulation, administration, imparting education, research and development, judiciary, defence, policing, foreign policy, implementation of welfare programmes, sustainable agriculture and provision of social goods were presented over 4 parallel technical sessions. The insights from the confluence is being developed in a proceeding to serve as a reference material for policy makers in future.

On the evening of the day one, a cultural event was organized at P C. Saxena Auditorium in the IIT-B campus. Ms. Dipanwita Bhaumik - disciple of Pandita Ranjana Phadke, an awardee of Nrityalankar from Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalay, Mumbai performed Indian classical dance with her troupe. It was followed by song from Kavish Seth a renowned young poet, singer, songwriter and an inventor. He is the son of well-known singer Ms. Kavita Seth. He has invented his own musical instrument called 'Noori', consisting of 18 strings and is shaped like a guitar, but with a wooden frame covered in goatskin to produce percussive sound like a Djembe. The soulful music from 'Noori' captured left the audience spell bound. The event was concluded on second day evening with vote of thanks from Professor Ashish Pandey and recitation of national anthem.



Photo 1: Professor Nisha Pandey, Director GIDR, addressing the National Confluence on Culture and Public Policy held at (SJMSoM), IIT-Bombay during June 06-07, 2025.



Photo 2: Professor Bapat, IIT-B addressing the participants.



Photo 3: Professor Sandeep Joshi Ji in conversation with Professor Ashis Pandey and others.



Photo 4: National Anthem at the End of the event.



Photo 5: Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki, IIT-B, known as Solarman of India addressing the gathering.



Photo 6: Shri Ashok Sharma, IAS, OSD to Honourable Governor of Gujarat addressing the gathering.



Photo 7: Honourable Justice R.R. Tripathi (retd.) of Gujarat High Court and former chairman of Gujarat Human Rights Commission, giving his key note address in inaugural event.



Photo 8: Professor Asish Pandey, the convenor of the conflux giving his welcome speech.



Photo 9: Inauguration of literary works by Shri Yatish Kumar, ex CWM, Eastern Railway.



Photo 10: Lighting of Lamp by the Dignitaries Before Inaugural.