



2025

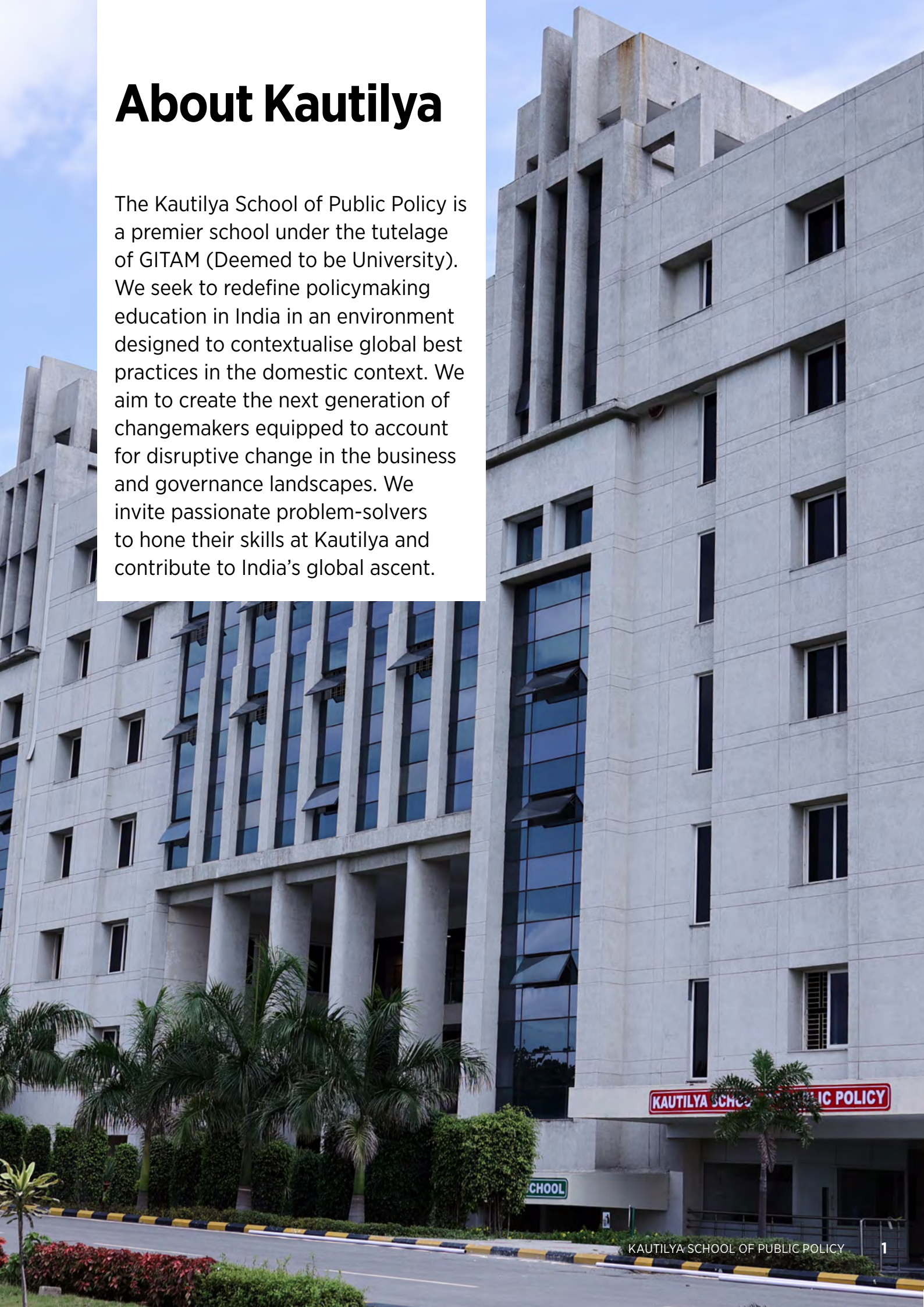
PhD in Public Policy

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About Kautilya

The Kautilya School of Public Policy is a premier school under the tutelage of GITAM (Deemed to be University). We seek to redefine policymaking education in India in an environment designed to contextualise global best practices in the domestic context. We aim to create the next generation of changemakers equipped to account for disruptive change in the business and governance landscapes. We invite passionate problem-solvers to hone their skills at Kautilya and contribute to India's global ascent.



About GITAM

GITAM offers industry's best 120+ undergraduate, postgraduate and research programs with a combination of 600+ majors and minors at 04 campuses situated in Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Vishakhapatnam spread across 400 acres.

1800+

TEACHING STAFF

1200+

**FACULTY WITH
DOCTORAL DEGREES**

26000+

STUDENTS

85000+

ALUMNI



GITAM ACCREDITATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS



NAAC 'A ++' Grade
in 2023



शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION

UGC Recognized as Category-'I'
Deemed to be University



101-150 Rank University
in NIRF 2023



93 in QS - INDIA Rankings 2023



601+ Rank in THE ASIA Ranking 2023



[Learn More
About GITAM](#)

Founders



M. Sri Bharat

Founder, Kautilya School of Public Policy;
President of GITAM; Member of Parliament,
18th Lok Sabha



Mr. Prateek Kanwal

Co-Founder,
Kautilya School of Public Policy

DEAN



Syed Akbaruiddin

Dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy;
Former Permanent Representative of
India to the UN



Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, *Former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India* in a guest lecture on “India’s Economic Development: Critical Challenges Ahead”

Advisory Board



Ms. Priyanka Chaturvedi

Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha



Mr. Dilip Cherian

Political Campaign Advisor and
Communications Consultant



Mr. Udaibir Saran Das

Former International Civil Servant
with International Monetary Fund



Dr. M. V. Rajeev Gowda

Former Member of Parliament;
Chairman, Congress Research
Department



Dr. Menaka Guruswamy

Senior Advocate,
Supreme Court of India



Mr. Ram Mohan Naidu

Member of Parliament,
18th Lok Sabha



Amb. Navtej Singh Sarna

Former Indian Ambassador
to the US and Israel



Mr. R. Subramanyam

Former Education Secretary to the
Government of India



Ms. Rama Vedashree

Former CEO of Data Security
Council of India

PhD in Public Policy

The doctoral program at the Kautilya School of Public Policy nurtures scholars committed to rigorous theoretical and applied research that tackles complex policy challenges. It emphasizes impact-driven research with real-world applications while advancing public policy theory. Our students bridge theory and practice, creating meaningful contributions to research and policymaking in fast-evolving policy landscapes.

Program Structure

The PhD program is structured into two phases :

1. **Coursework Phase:** Scholars complete a set of core and elective courses designed to provide a strong research foundation.
2. **Thesis Research Phase:** Scholars develop and defend a research proposal, conduct original research, and complete a doctoral dissertation.

DURATION

- **Minimum:** 3 years
- **Maximum:** 6 years (with extensions available under special conditions)

*Scholarship support available for up to 4 years

SCHOLARSHIP

- **Year 1 and 2:** ₹ 50,000 per month
- **Year 3 and 4:** ₹ 55,000 per month

CURRICULUM

PhD scholars must complete the following courses:

- Statistics for Public Policy
- Foundations of Academic Writing
- Research Methodology: Navigating the Field
- Foundations of Public Policy
- Area-Specific Courses (3 courses)
- Course of Independent Study (with Supervisor)
- Research and Publication Ethics (UGC mandatory course)



Faculty



Dr. Vishnu S. Pillai

Dr. Vishnu S. Pillai received his PhD in Public Policy from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in June 2022. His primary research focuses on risk analysis and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology regulation.

SPECIALIZATION: TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

AREAS OPEN FOR PHD RESEARCH

- AI policy and governance
- Risks and regulatory challenges of AI technologies.
- Public policy for emerging technologies.
- Comparative policy studies in technology regulation



Dr. Kanica Rakhra

A former Fellow at Middlebury Institute for International Studies (2019), the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (2016), and the Harvard led-Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA-2021), Dr. Rakhra holds a PhD from the Center for International Politics, Organization, and Disarmament (CIPOD) in Jawaharlal Nehru University where she was an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow (2014-16).

SPECIALIZATION: GLOBAL AFFAIRS

AREAS OPEN FOR PHD RESEARCH

- Strategic Security Studies
- Indian Foreign Policy
- Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- State Identity and International Politics



Research and Publications

To qualify for the PhD, scholars must:

1. Publish at least one paper in a Scopus/Web of Science indexed journal
2. Present at least two papers in peer-reviewed conferences (one national and one international)
3. Meet the plagiarism and AI content guidelines (below 20%)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Scholars will assist faculty members with teaching and research responsibilities for up to 6 hours per week.

THESIS SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

- Scholars will work under a Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC).
- Regular progress reports must be submitted.
- A pre-thesis defense is conducted before final submission.
- The thesis will be evaluated by two external examiners before the final viva-voce defense.

AWARD OF PhD


Upon successful completion of coursework, research, and defense, scholars will be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy.

Admissions



Eligibility Criteria

1. Master's degree in following policy-relevant discipline with at least 55% marks (or equivalent grade).
 - Public Policy
 - Political Science
 - Economics
 - Law
 - Sociology
 - History
 - International Relations
 - Engineering / Technology
 - Environmental Science
 - Development Studies
 - any other related area
2. M.Phil. graduates with 55% marks are also eligible.
3. Relaxation of 5% marks for SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/EWS/differently-abled candidates.
4. NET-qualified candidates will be given preference.

 [Research
FAQ's](#)

Admission Process

STEP 1: APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Candidates must submit a detailed application, including:

1. Personal and academic details
2. A 2,500-word research proposal, covering:
 - Problem Statement
 - Literature Review
 - Research Methodology
 - Expected Contributions

STEP 2: SHORTLISTING

Applicants who have not qualified the NET examination are required to appear for the entrance test conducted by GITAM (deemed to be) University for admission to the Ph.D. program.

STEP 3: INTERVIEW

Shortlisted applicants will appear before a selection panel for an in-depth discussion on their research proposal and academic potential.

STEP 4: FINAL SELECTION

Candidates who clear the interview will receive an admission offer. They must complete the enrollment formalities within the stipulated timeline.

 [APPLY
NOW](#)



GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT
(Deemed to be University U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade

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