

FIRST MERIT LIST

Policy Research Fellowship 2026

CATEGORY: POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

The following candidates have been shortlisted for the Round 1 Interview.

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Research Topic Proposed
1	Anooran Bordoloi	Institutional Capacity and Responsive Governance: Explaining Variations in Public Service Delivery across Indian Administrative Systems
2	Avinash Kumar	Beyond CSR: Need for a Legislative Framework Imposing Corporate Environmental Responsibility vis-à-vis the Polluter Pays Principle
3	Ganya Anand	Colonial Continuities and Gender Justice: Examining Police Response to Gender-Based Violence in India
4	Harshini Suresh	Beyond Access: Evaluating Employment Transition Challenges among First-Generation Graduates in Tamil Nadu
5	Khushboo Verma	Governing climate mobility: environmental governance and challenge of internal climate displacement
6	Lovely Singh	Governing Public Data in the Age of AI: Data Sovereignty, Accountability, and Democratic Governance in India
7	Madhvendra Singh	Justice in the Age of Intelligence: Reforming India's Criminal Justice System Through AI, Technology, and Institutional Redesign
8	Nayanika Karan	Developing Data-Driven Heat Action Plans: Integrating Thermal Remote Sensing and Geospatial Intelligence for Targeted Urban Cooling Interventions
9	Prakhar Bansal	The Invisible Cost of Reaching the Police: Building India's First Administrative Burden Index for Police-Citizen Services
10	Samiksha Dongre	From Public Expenditure to Public Outcomes: Understanding Last-Mile Challenges in Rural Welfare Delivery in India
11	Shital Magare	Assessing Community Awareness and Adaptation tactics for heat stress in vulnerable urban and rural communities
12	Shruti Chaudhary	Strengthening Women's Economic Participation Through Local Governance: A Study of Institutional Barriers and Enablers in Semi-Urban and Rural Uttar Pradesh
13	Vishal Chandra Bhardwaj	Digital Constitutionalism & the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Administration: Developing a Rights-Based Policy Framework for India's Courts

Programme Statistics

Total Applications Received	768
Policy Research Fellow — Applications	456
Policy Research Associate — Applications	290
Total Applications Considered	746



Shortlisted in First Merit List	43 (Fellows: 30 Associates: 13)
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Figures as per official records maintained by the Institute. Category-wise counts reflect valid applications recorded in the Final Applicants List. This provisional merit list pertains to Round 1 Interview shortlisting.