

FIRST MERIT LIST

Policy Research Fellowship 2026

CATEGORY: POLICY RESEARCH FELLOW

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

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Research Topic Proposed
1	Aarushi Nayyar	Bridging the Science-Policy Gap in Environmental Governance: A Study of Forest and Biodiversity Policy Implementation in Rural Himachal Pradesh
2	Agathiyan Susil R	Designing District-Level Circular E-Waste Ecosystems in India: Integrating Informal Workers into Formal Closed-Loop Supply Chains for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
3	Akshit Sirohi	Regulating for Authenticity: Designing a Policy Framework for Culturally Sustainable Homestay Tourism in Uttarakhand
4	Anshika Sharma	Broken Chain: Rethinking the Legal Framework for Digital Evidence Admissibility in Indian Cybercrime Prosecutions
5	Anupam	Examining Household Financial Stress and the Impact of Microfinance in the panchayats of Madhubani and Darbhanga
6	Anwesha Suman	Art as a Tool of Democratic Deepening: Evaluating the Role of Folk Art-Based Constitutional Education in Enhancing Constitutional Literacy in India
7	Atul Kumar Sharma	From Regulation to Resilience: A Polycentric Governance Framework for Sustainable Adventure Tourism and Community Development in India
8	Divye Gattani	Measuring Gender Differences in Household Consumption Expenditure: Evidence using HCES 2023-24
9	Jagriti Shukla	Menstrual Health Management among the Baiga Tribe and Its Impact on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Policies and Practices
10	Jahanvi Jha	Assessing the Role of ASHA Workers, the Over-Medicalisation of Childbirth, and Algorithmic Bias in AI-Driven Maternal Healthcare (An NFHS-6 Analysis)
11	Logesh Raja Mu	Algorithmic Accountability in India's Predictive Advisory Platforms: A Governance Framework for Traditional Knowledge Systems
12	Megha Poonia	From Innovation to Inclusion: Governing AI in School Education in India
13	Mudit Vashishth	From Digital Infrastructure to Intelligent Governance: Developing an AI Readiness and Responsible Adoption Framework for Government Schools in India
14	Neha Gogoi	Voices From the Margins to the Climate Frontlines: Reimagining Climate Governance through Indigenous Knowledge, Youth Engagement and Community led Resilience in South Asia
15	Nitesh Kandwal	Case Study of Own-Source Revenue (OSR) Generation in Pratit Nagar Gram Panchayat
16	Parthabi Kanungo	International Criminal Responsibility of Private Tech Actors for the Facilitation of Cyber- Enabled War Crimes
17	Priya Sadar	Inclusive Education under NEP 2020: Teachers as Street-Level Bureaucrats in Policy Implementation

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Research Topic Proposed
18	Rakhi Rawal	From Policy to Practice: Understanding the Disconnect Between Entrepreneurial Promotion, Youth Aspirations and Enterprise Sustainability in Haryana
19	Ria Kumari	Policing Gender Justice: Examining the Implementation of Gender-Based Violence Laws in India
20	Dr. Rita	Plastic, Policy and Climate: Towards Effective Environmental Governance in India
21	S. Gayathri	User-Centered Safety Determinants in Public Transit for Women and Gender-Diverse Individuals
22	Sagar Roy	Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work in India's IT Sector: Employment, Job Roles, and Global Value Chain Dynamics
23	Sai Sushma K	The Gate that does not open: Why India's Domestic Worker Welfare Boards fail the women they were built for
24	Shivani Kaushik	Assessing the Role of Local Government Institutions in Mediating Infrastructure-Induced Environmental Change in Uttarakhand
25	Shivasni Bhat	Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives in Education in India
26	Surjeet	Strengthening Accountability and Service Delivery in Public Institutions through Digital Governance: Opportunities and Challenges in India
27	Thakor Anshu Kumari Umesh	Role of Gram Panchayats and Government Employment Services in Enhancing Women's Employment Opportunities in Rural India
28	Vriti Sachdev	Gender Sensitivity in the Criminal Justice System: Addressing Barriers Faced by Women Survivors of Violence in India
29	Vriti Tickoo	Institutional Trust, Public Employment and Youth Emigration in Post-Reorganisation Jammu & Kashmir
30	Yash Jain	Optimising decentralised planning: A study of scheme convergence and digital accountability in Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) in Uttarakhand.

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)

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.