

RAAH

Research, Analysis and Advisory Hub

EVIDENCE. STRATEGY. IMPACT



RAAH Policy Fellowship 2026

UNDERSTANDING HOW PUBLIC POLICY WORKS IN PRACTICE

COHORT 2

HYBRID

WHY THIS FELLOWSHIP EXISTS?

Public policy is often taught through frameworks, theories, and models. Yet the realities of policymaking are shaped by institutions, incentives, political constraints, administrative processes, and the complex interactions between actors operating within governance systems. For many aspiring policy professionals, researchers, and public leaders, opportunities to learn directly from practitioners who have shaped governance at the highest levels are limited.

The RAAH Policy Fellowship was established to bridge this gap. Through sectoral policy engagements with senior civil servants, governance case studies, applied mentorship, and policy simulations, the Fellowship provides participants with a deeper understanding of how institutions function and how public policy works in practice.

Designed as a selective and mentorship-driven programme, the Fellowship seeks to cultivate a more informed, institutionally grounded, and practically oriented understanding of governance and public decision-making.



APPLICATIONS OPEN

20 July 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE

8 August 2026

PROGRAMME DATES

13 August - 19 September 2026

6-Weeks Intensive Fellowship

MODE

Hybrid

COHORT FORMAT

Selective and Mentorship Driven

ABOUT RAAH

RAAH (Research, Analysis and Advisory Hub) is a policy research and advisory platform working to strengthen evidence-informed public decision-making in India.

The organisation works at the intersection of policy research, institutional analysis, governance strategy, and capacity building across complex public systems.

Through research, structured learning, and practitioner engagement, RAAH seeks to translate policy complexity into actionable insight.

*Evidence. Strategy.
Impact*



CORE VERTICALS

POLICY RESEARCH

Structured analysis of public systems, policy design, and implementation challenges across governance and development sectors.

POLICY ADVISORY

Institutional and implementation-oriented policy engagement focused on evidence-informed and operationally viable solutions.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Fellowships, bootcamps, and structured learning initiatives designed to strengthen analytical and professional readiness for policy spaces.



LEARNING ARCHITECTURE

Sectoral Policy Engagements

Interactive policy engagements with former Secretaries to the Government of India, examining governance challenges, institutional design, and policy implementation across nine key sectors.

Governance Case Studies and Policy Diagnostics

Structured analysis of real-world policy challenges, institutional constraints, stakeholder dynamics, and implementation gaps shaping public outcomes.

Applied Policy Mentorship and Portfolio Development

Mentorship-driven learning focused on strengthening policy reasoning, analytical thinking, policy writing, and professional portfolio development.

Continued Mentorship and Extended Learning Support

Access to curated policy resources and continued mentorship support for four months beyond the Fellowship under the guidance of *Shri J.K. Dadoo, IAS (Retd.)*.

Policy Publication Opportunity

Selected fellows will have the opportunity to contribute to a policy book emerging from the Fellowship and graduate as published policy authors.

Policy Opportunities Repository

Access to a curated repository of internships, fellowships, research opportunities, and professional pathways across the public policy and governance ecosystem, developed under the guidance of *Shri J.K. Dadoo, IAS (Retd.)*.

Diplomatic Roundtable

Direct engagement with *Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, Ambassador Amarendra Khatua, and Ambassador Skand R. Tayal* at MICCIA, New Delhi, exploring diplomacy, foreign policy, international cooperation, and India's global engagements.

Capstone Policy Advisory Simulation

A team-based policy advisory exercise and certificate ceremony at the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.



SECTORS

**AI GOVERNANCE, DIGITAL
POLICY & EMERGING
TECHNOLOGIES**

**HEALTH SYSTEMS & PUBLIC
HEALTH POLICY**

**EDUCATION, SKILLS & HUMAN
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

FINANCE & ECONOMIC POLICY

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
LIVELIHOODS & LOCAL
GOVERNANCE**

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION &
LAW AND ORDER**

**CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS,
FEDERALISM & COOPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE**

DIPLOMATIC ROUNDTABLE

Diplomacy, Strategy, and India's Global Engagement

One of the signature components of the RAAH Policy Fellowship is an exclusive diplomatic roundtable at MICCIA, New Delhi, featuring distinguished former Ambassadors of India, *Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, Ambassador Amarendra Khatua, and Ambassador Skand R. Tayal*, who have represented the country across Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Structured as an interactive and discussion-driven exercise, fellows are divided into five teams, with each team exploring the geopolitical, economic, and strategic dynamics of a particular region. Through direct engagement with senior diplomats, participants examine how international developments shape foreign policy choices, national interests, and governance priorities.



FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

5 TEAMS

Each team examines one major world region through a policy and diplomatic lens.

5 CONTINENTS

Discussions span regional priorities, geopolitical developments, strategic interests, and emerging global challenges.

DIRECT AMBASSADORIAL ENGAGEMENT

Participants engage directly with senior diplomatic practitioners through moderated discussions and regional policy dialogues.

CAPSTONE POLICY ADVISORY SIMULATION

The Fellowship culminates in a capstone policy advisory simulation at the *India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi*, where fellows work in teams to analyse a contemporary governance challenge and develop evidence-based policy recommendations.

Designed to mirror the complexities of real-world policymaking, the simulation requires participants to apply the institutional understanding, analytical frameworks, and policy reasoning developed throughout the Fellowship. Working within a simulated advisory environment, fellows examine competing priorities, implementation constraints, stakeholder interests, and governance trade-offs that shape public decision-making.

Teams present their recommendations before an evaluation panel comprising senior civil servants and policy practitioners, receiving feedback on the feasibility, analytical rigour, and strategic coherence of their proposals.

The Fellowship concludes with a certificate ceremony at the *India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi*.



SIMULATION FRAMEWORK

**TEAM-BASED GOVERNANCE
EXERCISE**

SURVEY / EVIDENCE COLLECTION

**INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM
ANALYSIS**

**GOVERNANCE RESEARCH AND
INTERPRETATION**

**RECOMMENDATION &
PRESENTATION**

PRACTITIONER EVALUATION

**CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR OUTSTANDING TEAMS
SIGNED BY SHRI J.K. DADOO, IAS
(RETD.)**



MENTORS AND PRACTITIONERS

Learning from Practitioners Who Have Shaped Public Policy at the Highest Levels of Government



Shri J.K. Dadoo, IAS (Retd.)

Former Additional Secretary and
Financial Advisor,
Department of Commerce,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

*Session: Rudiments of Policy
Architecture*



Shri C.K. Mishra, IAS (Retd.)

Former Secretary, Ministry of Health &
Family Welfare and
Ministry of Environment, Forest &
Climate Change, Government of India

*Session: Session: Health Systems & Public
Health Policy*



Smt. Rina Ray, IAS (Retd.)

Former Secretary, Department of School
Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education,
Government of India

*Session: Education, Skills & Human Capital
Development*



Shri Rohit Kumar Singh, IAS (Retd.)

Former Secretary
Department of Consumer Affairs
Government of India

*Session: AI Governance, Digital Policy &
Emerging Technologies*



Shri R. R. Rashmi, IAS (Retd.)

Former Chief Secretary
Government of Manipur and
Former Special Secretary, Ministry
of Environment, Forest & Climate
Change
Government of India

Session: Environmental Policy



Shri Dinesh Singh, IAS (Retd.)

Former Secretary
Department of Rural Development
and Department of Land Resources
Government of India

*Session: District Administration & Law
and Order*



**Shri K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty,
IAS (Retd.)**

Member
High-Level Committee on Union-State
Relations and Former Principal Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu

*Session: Centre-State Relations, Federalism &
Cooperative Governance*



Ms. Parneet Kaur

Founder, RAAH
Formerly with Rajya Sabha Secretariat
Ministry of Rural Development
Offices of Members of Parliament

Session: Mentorship Sessions

DIPLOMATIC ROUNDTABLE

Learning from Practitioners Who Have Shaped Public Policy at the Highest Levels of Government



Shri Skand Ranjan Tayal, IFS (Retd.)

Former Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan



Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS (Retd.)

Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and
Former Ambassador of India to Argentina, Uruguay & Paraguay



Shri Anil Trigunayat, IFS (Retd.)

Former Ambassador of India to Jordan, Libya and Malta

INAUGURAL COHORT

A Community of Emerging Policy Professionals, Researchers, and Future Public Leaders



Bhaskar Agarwal

Economics, Shri Ram College of Commerce
Incoming, University of Oxford



Nikita Singh

Principal, Mott MacDonald
Public Policy, London School of
Economics and Political Science (LSE)



Priyal Jain

Former Indian Air Force Cadet
National Defence Academy



Ashmit Mishra

Economics, University College London



Parul Gupta

Assistant Professor, Dhirubhai Ambani
University
Doctoral Researcher, IIT Delhi



Simin Sanil

Public Policy, University College London

INAUGURAL COHORT

A Community of Emerging Policy Professionals, Researchers, and Future Public Leaders



Neharika Gupta

LL.M., Faculty of Law, University of Delhi



Radhika Jain

Incoming PhD Researcher, Università
della Svizzera Italiana



Divyansh Shah

History, St. Stephen's College



Ruchi Payal

Doctoral Researcher, National Institute of
Educational Planning and Administration
(NIEPA)



Sri Nikitha Reddy Tummuru

Advanced Master's Candidate, KU Leuven
& Lund University

VOICES FROM THE INAUGURAL COHORT

How Fellows Experienced Policy in Practice

“

The RAAH Policy Fellowship provided a nuanced understanding of policymaking in India, where social realities and institutional contexts play a critical role in shaping policy outcomes, often in ways distinct from Australia, the UK, and Indonesia. Learning from experts and fellow participants deepened my appreciation of policymaking as both an analytical discipline and a craft.



Nikita Singh

Principal, Mott MacDonald; Public Policy,
London School of Economics and Political
Science (LSE)

“

My biggest takeaway was learning to think about policy less in terms of the outcome written on paper and more in terms of incentives, constraints, and the actors who actually sit inside the system. A lot of the fellowship pushed me to ask not just “what should happen?” but “who has to do what, under what pressures, and why might they behave differently from what the policy intends?” That way of thinking felt very useful and much more grounded



Ashmit Mishra

Economics, University College London

“

The RAAH Fellowship transformed how I think about policy problems. It pushed me to first map the actors involved, understand their incentives, and diagnose the problem before reaching for solutions. The case studies made abstract frameworks tangible, showing how informal power structures and misaligned incentives can quietly undermine even well-designed interventions.



Simin Sanil

Public Policy, University College London

VOICES FROM THE INAUGURAL COHORT

How Fellows Experienced Policy in Practice

“

The RAAH Policy Fellowship was far more than a milestone; it was a profound immersion into the mechanics of public governance. Transitioning from the disciplined rigors of a defense environment to mapping unconventional policy sectors provided an extraordinary bridge for my professional growth



Priyal Jain

Former Indian Air Force Cadet, National Defence Academy

“

The RAAH Policy Fellowship gave me something no textbook could direct exposure to how policy is actually made, debated, and broken down within real institutions. In four weeks, I went from studying governance to genuinely thinking like someone who has to make it work. This fellowship is what early-career policy professionals in India have been waiting for.



Radhika Jain

Incoming PhD Researcher, Università della Svizzera Italiana

“

RAAH Fellowship taught me that great policy is not built in theory alone. It is forged where ambition meets institutional reality. It reshaped how I approach governance, pushing me to think beyond perfect ideas and toward solutions that can survive, scale and create real impact in India's complex policy landscape



Sri Nikitha Reddy Tummuru

Advanced Master's Candidate, KU Leuven & Lund University

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Fellowship is designed for individuals seeking a deeper understanding of how public institutions function, how policy decisions are shaped, and how complex governance challenges are analysed and addressed.

The programme is particularly suited for:

- *Students and Researchers* interested in public policy, governance, development, public systems, and applied policy research.
- *Young Professionals* seeking structured exposure to policymaking, government institutions, and public decision-making processes.
- *Professionals transitioning into Public Policy* from diverse sectors who wish to build a rigorous foundation in policy analysis and governance.
- *Civil Services Aspirants* seeking a deeper understanding of institutions, governance systems, and policy implementation beyond examination preparation.
- *International Participants and NRIs* interested in engaging with India's public policy landscape and governance ecosystem.

The Fellowship welcomes applicants from diverse academic disciplines and professional backgrounds. Prior experience in public policy is not required. Intellectual curiosity, analytical aptitude, and a genuine interest in public affairs are valued most.



PROGRAMME FEATURES

**OPEN TO APPLICANTS ACROSS
DISCIPLINES**

**NO PRIOR POLICY BACKGROUND
REQUIRED**

**FOUNDATIONAL AND APPLIED
POLICY ORIENTATION**

**DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPATION**

**STRUCTURED FOR BOTH
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL
PATHWAYS IN POLICY AND
GOVERNANCE**



PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Through sustained engagement with former Secretaries to the Government of India, distinguished diplomats, governance case studies, policy diagnostics, mentorship, and collaborative learning, fellows will:

- Strengthen their ability to analyse complex governance challenges through institutional, administrative, political, and implementation perspectives.
- Gain direct exposure to the experiences and insights of senior civil servants, diplomats, and policy practitioners who have shaped public policy at the highest levels.
- Build stronger policy reasoning, analytical thinking, and evidence-based problem-solving capabilities.
- Develop policy communication, teamwork, and advisory skills through collaborative exercises and the Capstone Policy Advisory Simulation.
- Engage with contemporary policy challenges across multiple sectors through structured practitioner-led discussions and governance case studies.
- Contribute to a policy book emerging from the Fellowship and gain experience in translating analysis into written policy outputs.
- Access continued mentorship support, policy resources, and professional guidance for four months beyond the Fellowship under the mentorship of Shri J.K. Dadoo, IAS (Retd.).
- Expand their professional networks through engagement with peers, practitioners, mentors, and the wider public policy and governance ecosystem.



FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION

PRACTITIONER - LED LEARNING

**GOVERNANCE AND
INSTITUTIONAL ORIENTATION**

APPLIED POLICY ANALYSIS

**MENTORSHIP DRIVEN
DEVELOPMENT**

**COLLABORATIVE COHORT
EXPERIENCE**

**LONG TERM POLICY
ENGAGEMENT**

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Submit your Application

Interested applicants are required to complete the online application form available on the RAAH Policy Fellowship webpage.

Application Review

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by the Selection Committee. Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a brief interview as part of the selection process. Applicants will receive a selection communication within five working days of submission.

Admission Offer and Fee Payment

Selected applicants will receive an admission offer and will be required to complete the Fellowship fee payment within two working days of receiving the confirmation email. Flexible instalment options are available.

Confirmation of Admission

Admission to the Fellowship will be confirmed upon successful fee payment and will remain subject to cohort capacity.

Cohort Commencement

Selected participants will join Cohort 2 of the RAAH Policy Fellowship, commencing in August 2026.



PROGRAMME INFORMATION

PROGRAMME FEE (INDIA)

Rs 14,999 INR

PROGRAMME FEE (INTERNATIONAL)

\$199 USD

MODE OF DELIVERY

Hybrid

SESSION ACCESS

Recordings accessible throughout the programme

APPLICATION DEADLINE

8 AUGUST 2026



RAAH POLICY FELLOWSHIP
COHORT 2

CONTACT

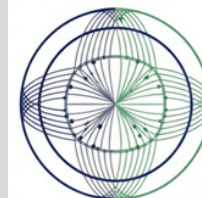
fellowship@raahpolicy.org

raahpolicy.org

JOIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF POLICY PROFESSIONALS

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Limited Cohort | Hybrid | August - September 2026



RAAH

Research, Analysis and Advisory Hub