

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS)

Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi

Positions: Fellow | Senior Research Associate | Research Associate | Interns (full-time)

Location: New Delhi, India (in office, full-time)

About TREADS

The Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS) Initiative at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, that advances interdisciplinary research on water policy and governance, with a particular focus on transboundary river conflict, cooperation and governance. Led by Dr Srinivas Chokkakula, President and Chief Executive of CPR, TREADS brings together perspectives from the social sciences, law, engineering and environmental studies to examine how political, institutional, ecological and developmental processes shape water governance.

TREADS connects rigorous interdisciplinary research with policy engagement and practitioner experience. Its work spans interstate and water security, transboundary water relations, river-basin governance, environmental change, institutions and the political economy of water. By engaging with evolving policy priorities, institutional developments and emerging debates, TREADS seeks not only to generate evidence for policymaking but also to shape the broader discourse on water governance and development.

TREADS seeks curious, committed and intellectually ambitious colleagues who want to contribute to an interdisciplinary research agenda and develop as thought-leaders in their respective areas of specialisation. The Initiative offers opportunities to pursue rigorous research, engage with contemporary policy developments, and contribute to debates that inform policymaking and shape public and scholarly discourse. We particularly welcome candidates who are keen to build a sustained research career, develop distinctive areas of expertise, and translate their research into meaningful policy and intellectual contributions. Applicants with an interest in pursuing doctoral studies and a long-term research-oriented career are especially encouraged to apply.

Positions and Responsibilities

Selected candidates will contribute to TREADS' research and programme activities at a level appropriate to their experience. Depending on the role, responsibilities may include:

- Conducting interdisciplinary research on water policy and governance, in the intersections of law, politics, ecology, technology and development.
- Undertaking fieldwork, interviews, data collection and desk-based research; reviewing and synthesising academic and policy literature.
- Preparing research reports, policy briefs, working papers, articles and other knowledge products for academic, policy and practitioner audiences.
- Contributing to research design, proposal development, fundraising, grant implementation and collaborative research projects.
- Planning and coordinating seminars, roundtables, workshops and other academic or policy-engagement activities.

- Engaging with government agencies, researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders at national and subnational levels.
- Supporting the communication and dissemination of research through digital platforms, social media and other public-facing channels.
- For senior roles, helping shape the research agenda, lead projects, mentor junior colleagues and contribute to the intellectual development of the cluster.

Eligibility and Qualifications

1. Fellow

- A PhD with relevant research experience in law, social sciences, engineering, environmental studies, water resources management or a related discipline.
- A strong record of independent research and scholarship in water policy and governance, transboundary rivers, environmental governance or related fields, demonstrated through peer-reviewed publications, research reports, policy briefs or other relevant outputs.
- Experience in developing research proposals, contributing to fundraising, managing research grants or coordinating collaborative research initiatives will be an advantage.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in an interdisciplinary setting, including mentoring junior researchers and contributing to the intellectual development of TREADS.

2. Senior Research Associate / Research Associate

- A Master's degree in engineering/planning, law, a social science discipline or another relevant field.
- For Senior Research Associate roles, substantial relevant professional or research experience is expected; Research Associate applicants should have at least one to two years of relevant experience. The level of appointment will depend on the candidate's profile.
- A demonstrated interest in water governance, environmental policy, water resources management or related areas.
- Strong research, analytical and writing skills, including the ability to synthesise complex material for different audiences.
- Experience with digital, social and print media for communicating research—including blogs, reports and infographics—will be an advantage.
- Familiarity with GIS, data analysis and visualisation tools will be an added advantage.

3. Interns (full-time)

- Applicants pursuing or having recently completed undergraduate or postgraduate study in a relevant discipline may apply.
- A demonstrated interest in water, rivers, environmental governance, public policy or interdisciplinary research.
- Good research, writing and communication skills; prior research or fieldwork experience will be an advantage.
- Interested candidates **must** only apply through the Google Form [here](#).

What We Offer

TREADS offers an opportunity to work on substantive questions of water governance in an interdisciplinary research environment, engage with academic and policy communities, and contribute to research with policy relevance. Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications, experience and the position offered, and will be competitive with prevailing market standards.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should email the following to treads@cprindia.org:

- A cover letter or statement of purpose describing your research interests, longer-term academic or professional goals, and why you would like to work with TREADS@CPR.
- A curriculum vitae (CV) with at least two references.
- One or two writing samples that demonstrate relevant research, analytical or writing experience.

Please use the subject line: POSITION_YOURNAME (for example, FELLOW_AshaSharma or RESEARCH_ASSOCIATE_AshaSharma). Please also indicate your earliest possible date of joining in your cover letter.

Kindly note: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the positions are filled. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. **Applicants are requested not to send follow-up emails.** For queries, [please write to treads@cprindia.org](mailto:treads@cprindia.org)