



**CDIPR**  
Centre for Development of Intellectual  
Property and Research  
बौद्धिक संपदा एवं अनुसंधान विकास केंद्र



**NAOVINA**  
Development of  
Intellectual  
Property and  
Research Foundation  
Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research

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(A Section 8 Non-profit Organisation registered under the Companies Act, 2013)

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## AI Policy Research Fellowship, 2026

### South Asian Artificial Intelligence Conclave 2026

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In Collaboration with

**Google**  
for Education

**DATA &  
SOCIETY**

### About the Fellowship

The *AI Policy Research Fellowship, 2026* is one of the *most prestigious international research fellowships in South Asia*, instituted by the *Centre for Development of Intellectual Property and Research (CDIPR)*, *Naovina Development of Intellectual Property and Research Foundation*.

The Fellowship is organised in collaboration with *Google for Education* and the *Data & Society Research Institute*, and is powered by the

*Community for Academic Research and Development Foundation*. Conceived as a flagship academic and policy initiative, the Fellowship seeks to advance cutting-edge research at the intersection of *Artificial Intelligence, Public Policy, Law, Education, and Technological Innovation*. It is designed to bring together a diverse cohort of *scholars, policymakers, technologists, and professionals* from across South Asia and beyond, thereby fostering a truly *global and interdisciplinary research ecosystem*.

In the contemporary digital era, Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a transformative force influencing governance systems, economic structures, and societal dynamics. While AI presents



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intelligenza artificiale . الذكاء الاصطناعي . कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता . künstliche Intelligenz

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**Offices:** Wadhwa Complex, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092 (**Delhi**)

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unprecedented opportunities for innovation and development, it simultaneously raises complex regulatory, ethical, and legal challenges. There exists a pressing need for *robust policy frameworks that balance innovation with accountability, inclusivity, and human-centric values*. The *AI Policy Research Fellowship, 2026* addresses this critical need by providing a *rigorous, research-intensive platform* for the development of *evidence-based policy solutions and forward-looking regulatory frameworks*. The programme enables Fellows to engage deeply with pressing issues such as *AI governance, algorithmic accountability, data protection, intellectual property in AI-generated works, and the socio-economic implications of emerging technologies*. Through structured mentorship, collaborative research engagements, and high-impact policy outputs, the Fellowship aims to cultivate a new generation of *thought leaders and policy innovators* capable of shaping the future of AI governance at both national and international levels.

### **South Asian Artificial Intelligence (SAAI) Conclave 2026**

The *AI Policy Research Fellowship, 2026* is being organised as a *post-conclave academic and research initiative* under the broader framework of the *South Asian Artificial Intelligence (SAAI) Conclave, 2026*. The SAAI Conclave 2026 is envisioned as a premier international platform dedicated to advancing dialogue on *Artificial Intelligence, governance, digital transformation, and sustainable technological development across South Asia and the Global South*. The Conclave seeks to bring together *academicians, policymakers, industry leaders, technology experts, international organisations, and research institutions* to deliberate upon the opportunities and challenges posed by AI in diverse socio-economic contexts. Building upon the success of previous global and regional initiatives which have witnessed participation from *over 65 countries and 120+ institutions worldwide*. Within this broader vision, the *AI Policy Research Fellowship, 2026* serves as a foundational academic component, enabling selected Fellows to contribute original research, policy briefs, and actionable recommendations that will be showcased and deliberated during the Conclave.

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## Objectives of the Fellowship

The Fellowship is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To promote **high-quality, policy-oriented research** in Artificial Intelligence
- To bridge the gap between **technology, law, governance, and society**
- To develop **innovative regulatory and policy frameworks** for AI
- To encourage **comparative and interdisciplinary research approaches**
- To strengthen **global academic collaboration and policy engagement**
- To prepare participants for leadership roles in **AI governance, public policy, and digital regulation**

## Fellowship Duration and Mode

- **Duration:** Two Months
- **Mode:** Virtual Programme with policy roundtable/dialogue
- **Time Commitment:** Approximately 8–10 hours per week

## Thematic Areas of Research

Applicants are invited to undertake research in the following indicative areas (non-exhaustive):

### 1. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- *Machine learning, deep learning, and generative AI*
- *Natural language processing and computer vision*
- *Responsible, explainable, and trustworthy AI*
- *Human–AI interaction and collaborative intelligence*
- *AI safety and risk mitigation*

### 2. AI, Law, Ethics, and Governance

- *Regulation of AI and algorithmic decision-making*
- *Data protection, privacy, and surveillance concerns*
- *Bias, discrimination, and fairness in AI systems*
- *AI liability, accountability, and legal personhood debates*

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- *Global and regional AI governance frameworks*
- 3. AI for Social Good and Sustainable Development**
- *AI in healthcare, education, and public welfare*
  - *AI-driven solutions for climate change and sustainability*
  - *Smart agriculture and food security*
  - *Inclusive and accessible AI technologies*
  - *AI in disaster management and resilience*
- 4. Data, Digital Infrastructure, and Platform Governance**
- *Data governance, ownership, and sharing models*
  - *Platform economies and algorithmic power*
  - *Digital public infrastructure and AI*
  - *Cybersecurity and AI-enabled threats*
  - *Cross-border data flows and digital sovereignty*
- 5. Innovation, Intellectual Property, and AI Economy**
- *AI and intellectual property rights*
  - *Patents, copyright, and ownership of AI-generated works*
  - *Open-source AI and collaborative innovation*
  - *AI startups, entrepreneurship, and scaling*
  - *Technology transfer and commercialization*
- 6. AI, Society, and the Future of Work**
- *Automation and labour markets*
  - *Skills, education, and AI literacy*
  - *AI and workplace surveillance*
  - *Gender, diversity, and inclusion in AI ecosystems*
  - *Socio-economic impacts of intelligent automation*
- 7. AI, Democracy, and Digital Constitutionalism**

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- *AI and electoral integrity*
- *Algorithmic influence on public opinion and speech*
- *AI, misinformation, and deepfakes*
- *Constitutional limits on automated governance*
- *Protecting democratic institutions in the age of AI*

#### **8. AI in Education, Research, and Knowledge Systems**

- *AI-enabled learning platforms and digital classrooms*
- *Academic integrity, AI tools, and assessment ethics*
- *AI in legal, scientific, and interdisciplinary research*
- *Open knowledge, digital libraries, and AI curation*
- *Capacity-building and AI literacy in the Global South*

#### **9. Defence, Security, and Strategic AI**

- *Autonomous weapons and international humanitarian law*
- *AI in national security and intelligence analysis*
- *Cyber warfare, AI-driven threats, and resilience*
- *Dual-use AI technologies and export controls*
- *Global norms and treaties on military AI*

#### **10. Indigenous Knowledge, Culture, and AI Futures**

- *AI and protection of traditional knowledge systems*
- *Cultural bias, language models, and regional identities*
- *AI for preservation of heritage, languages, and folklore*
- *Community-centric and participatory AI design*
- *Decolonising AI and Global South epistemologies*

### **Structure of the Fellowship Programme**

*The Fellowship is structured into three comprehensive phases:*

#### ***Phase I: Orientation and Academic Foundation (Week 1)***

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This phase will introduce Fellows to the core dimensions of AI policy and research methodologies. It will include:

- Inaugural Session and Programme Briefing
- Expert Lectures on AI Governance, Ethics, and Law
- Workshops on Academic Writing, Policy Drafting, and Research Design
- Orientation on comparative policy frameworks and global AI governance models

***Phase II: Guided Research and Mentorship (Weeks 2–6)***

During this phase, Fellows will undertake intensive research under expert supervision:

- Allocation and refinement of research topics
- Weekly mentorship sessions with academic and industry experts
- Development of research papers or policy briefs
- Participation in peer-review discussions and collaborative research forums
- Periodic submission of drafts and progress reports

***Phase III: Policy Output, Review, and Dissemination (Weeks 7–8)***

The final phase will focus on the consolidation and presentation of research outputs:

- Submission of final research paper / policy brief
- Expert evaluation and review process
- Presentation before an academic and policy panel
- Participation in a National/International AI Policy Roundtable
- Contribution to an edited volume or policy compendium

## **Recognition & Awards**

Selected contributors will receive:

- ***Internationally Recognised Fellowship Certificate issued by Google for Education and the Data & Society Research Institute.***

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- *Publication in the International Edited Volume titled, “AI in South Asia: Shaping Intelligence for Inclusive Futures” with ISBN 978-81-998939-1-7.*  
(To be published and distributed across 15 nations, with DoI, international editorial and institutional collaboration.)
- *Top 3 Fellows - Merit Distinction for highest overall performance in the Fellowship.*
- *Excellence in AI Policy Innovation Award for innovative and forward-thinking policy solutions in AI governance.*
- *Structured Mentorship Programme under leading academicians, policy experts, legal scholars, and AI practitioners from national and international institutions.*
- *Global Exposure and Networking Opportunities through direct engagement with an international cohort of researchers, professionals, and policymakers.*
- *Networking with Global Think Tanks, International Organisations, Academic Institutions, and Technology Leaders.*
- *Letter of Recommendation from CDIPR for outstanding Fellows, supporting academic and professional advancement.*

### **Application Timeline**

- **Application Deadline: 30th April, 2026**  
(Submission of the online application form along with Statement of Purpose Max. 100 words and research interests.)
- **Screening and Shortlisting of Applicants: 2nd May, 2026**  
(Applications will undergo a rigorous review process based on academic background, research aptitude, and alignment with Fellowship objectives.)
- **Notification of Shortlisted Applicants: 3rd May, 2026**  
(Shortlisted Applicants will be notified via email.)
- **Declaration of Selected Fellows: 5th May, 2026**  
(Publication of the final list of selected candidates on official platforms, followed by formal onboarding communication.)

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- Date of Fellowship Commencement: 18th May, 2026

Online Application Form: <https://forms.gle/U4P2A3EZuof5gAz5>

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