

Embark India Development Fellowship

A collaborative platform that prepares the youth to be key stakeholders in **Viksit Bharat**. By strategically engaging fellows with the government, the program aims to bring innovative perspectives to co-create efficient and citizen-centric solutions.

#Governance #Leadership #Empiricism #Policy #Development #Solutions



Embark India Development Fellowship, a flagship 16-month program designed to nurture young professionals as partners in India's development journey. This unique fellowship aims to place young professionals at the heart of development policy and governance to work within key public institutions, departments, and agencies of the Government of India. Fellows will support ongoing and new development initiatives, conduct evidence-based research, and co-create innovative solutions.

Anchored in the **vision of Viksit Bharat@2047**, the program offers rigorous training in development theory, public policy, and governance systems; strategic mentorship; and immersive field placements. Fellows will gain the skills, exposure, and experience to drive impactful, research-driven solutions to real-world development policy challenges.



Fellowship Objectives

- Promote youth engagement in national development policy and governance.
- Build leadership capacities of young professionals to understand and engage with public systems.
- Bridge grassroots realities by conducting field research, consulting stakeholders, and co-creating development policy strategies.
- Generate high-quality, evidence-based outputs that can support innovation and decision-making in government.



Fellowship Participants - Who can apply?

We are seeking a diverse and dynamic cohort of fellows to drive a new era of governance. Our program is designed for three distinct professional streams, each bringing a unique skill set to the fellowship.

Mandatory Criteria

- **Age:** Up to 35 years as of 01st January 2027.
- **Education:** A postgraduate degree in any discipline from a recognised institution. We highly encourage candidates with academic backgrounds in public policy, governance, social sciences, economics, law, management, environmental sciences and engineering.

Qualities we are looking for -

Commitment: A strong commitment to public service and a desire to contribute meaningfully to the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision.

Aptitude: A proven track record of critical thinking, problem-solving, and a data-driven approach.

Adaptability: The ability to work in a dynamic, multi-stakeholder environment and navigate the complexities of government and bureaucracy.

If you meet these criteria and are driven by a passion for creating impactful change, we encourage you to apply and become part of this transformative mission.

Fellowship Streams

1. The Aspiring Governance Professional - For Fresh Postgraduates & Recent Alumni (23-25 Years)

You are at the beginning of your professional journey, eager to contribute to India's development story. This stream is for exceptional postgraduate students who are looking for a high-impact launchpad for a career in public policy and governance.

- No prior work experience is required, but a strong portfolio of internships, academic research, or project work is mandatory.
- Candidates with prior fellowship experience will have an edge.

2. The Social Sector Catalyst - For Experienced Social Sector Professionals (26-35 Years)

You have a deep, on-the-ground understanding of social and development challenges. This stream is for professionals with proven experience in the non-profit or social enterprise sector who wish to leverage their field-level insights to influence policy and governance from within.

Eligibility:

- A minimum of three years of professional experience in the social sector.

3. The Corporate Change Agent - For Corporate to Public Sector Transitioners (26-35 Years)

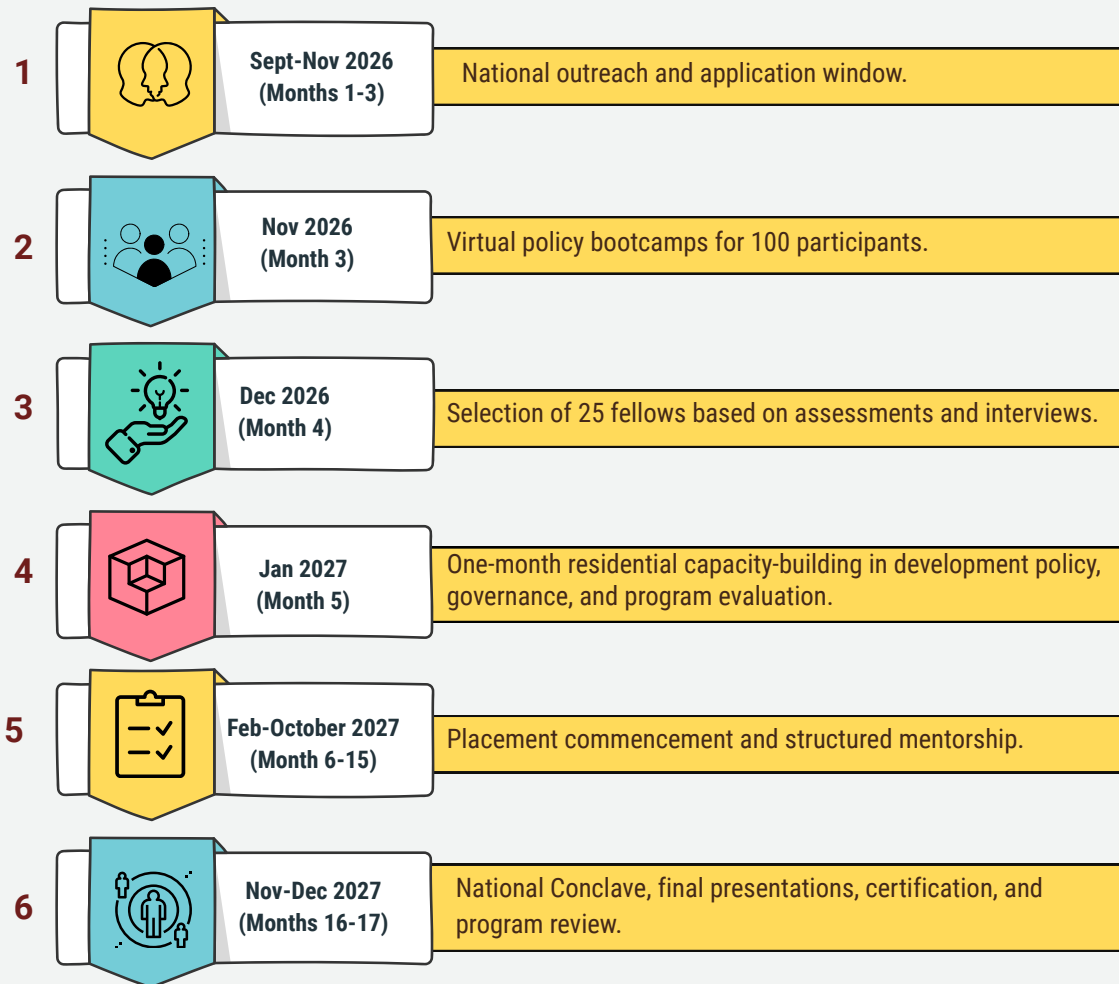
You bring a wealth of strategic, analytical, and managerial skills from the corporate world. This stream is for seasoned professionals who are passionate about using their business acumen to solve complex public challenges and contribute to nation-building.

Eligibility:

- A minimum of five years of professional experience in the corporate sector.

If you identify with any of these streams and are driven by a passion for creating impactful change, we encourage you to apply and become part of this transformative mission. Selection will be based on performance in a national-level virtual bootcamp, interviews, and thematic alignment with placement institutions.

Fellowship Structure and Timelines (September 2026 – December 2027)





Who Should Join?

This fellowship is for purpose-driven individuals ready to take their careers to the next level and make a tangible impact on India's development. We are looking for:

Young Professionals & Early-Career Leaders

- You are a post-graduate with a strong academic background and a keen interest in public policy, governance, or development.
- You have 1-5 years of work experience and are looking for a unique opportunity to apply your skills in a high-impact setting.

Aspiring Policymakers & Researchers

- You have a passion for evidence-based solutions and want to understand how data and research translate into policy and practice.
- You are driven by the vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047 and want to contribute directly to its realization.

Innovators & Problem-Solvers

- You are a critical thinker who can tackle complex challenges and co-create practical, citizen-centric solutions.
- You are adaptable, resilient, and eager to navigate the complexities of governance and bureaucracy to drive change from meaningful change, particularly in sustainability and environmental action.

If you are a high-achieving individual committed to building a better India, this fellowship is your platform to learn, lead, and leave a lasting legacy.

What Will You Gain?



- **Hands-On Experience:** Work with public institutions on high-priority development policy & governance challenges
- **Rigorous Capacity Building:** 03 days virtual bootcamps and 30 days residential bootcamp in public policy, governance, research, and program evaluation using GRAAM's 3PE course module with academic certification.
- **Expert Mentorship:** Access to a TRIAD of mentors from governance, academia, and public administration, offering continuous guidance throughout your placement journey.
- **Research & Publications:** Author impactful white papers, policy briefs, and articles with national visibility
- **Networking & Exposure:** Connect with senior policymakers, development practitioners, & researchers
- **Professional Recognition:** Earn certification, build a strong portfolio, & join a growing network of development policy professionals
- **Competitive Stipend Support:** Monthly allowance up to ₹70,000 along with institutional support
- **Micro to Macro Development Understanding:** Get a unique perspective of understanding development from micro to macro level. Panchayat to Parliament exposure.
- **Exclusive Access:** Build a powerful network with high-level government officials, policy experts, and leaders from civil society and think tanks.
- **Amplify Your Voice:** Your work will directly inform and shape governance solutions, giving you a platform to influence policy discussions and contribute to the national agenda of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Intended Outcomes

25 fellows embedded in government departments, contributing directly to priority policy/program challenges

Professional recognition, certification, & advanced career prospects

100+ youth trained in public policy and governance basics

A scalable model for youth engagement in governance

Complementing institutional capacity for evidence-based decision-making

25+ white papers, policy briefs, and issue notes developed



Thematic Focus Areas



**Road Safety and Human
Centric Mobility**



**Electric and Low Carbon
Mobility**



**Circular Economy and
Sustainable Materials**



**Climate Intelligence and
Energy Resilience**



**Water Resources,
Sanitation and Hygiene**



**Education, Skill Development,
& Livelihood**



Environmental Sustainability & Climate Action -

- Afforestation
- Waste management
- Green Skilling and Employment
- Water and Sanitation
- Issues related with Persons with Disability
- Environment Safety - Evidence and Data for Sustainable Development



**Urban Development &
Governance**



Capacity Building and Research



**Economic Growth, Public
Finance & Expenditure**



**Rural/Tribal Development &
Local Governance**

**Sustainability will be a cross cutting theme applied
across the listed domains.**

Advisory Committee Members - 2026

The Embark India Development Fellowship is steered by a committee of renowned experts from across academia, governance, policy-making, and public administration. Our esteemed committee members include:



Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudde

Former President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University
Former Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi



Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, IAS (Retd.)

Former Director General
Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)



Shri D. M. Kiran

CEO, Sewa Bridge Consulting
Former CEO, ONGC Foundation
Sous Sherpa - G20 C20 India



Prof. Shobhit Mathur

Co-Founder and Vice Chancellor
Rishikood University



Dr. Aarushi Jain

Policy Director
Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business



Dr. Anirban Ganguly

Chairman & Trustee
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation (SPMRF),
New Delhi

“The ideas and insights of our youth can show the way in building a Viksit Bharat.”

-Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2.0,
27 October 2025

About GRAAM

Grassrooting policies, deeprooting development



GRAAM is a development research and public policy engagement initiative (think-and-act tank) in India. GRAAM's extensive expertise spans over policy research, program evaluation, community engagement, policy engagement, impact consultation and academic engagements. GRAAM works in collaboration with all the four key stakeholders of development i.e. Government, Citizenry, Civil Society Organizations, and Corporate. Complementing strengths of each sector is essential to achieve the development goals. With its proven experience of bridging grassroots realities with evidence-based policy solutions, GRAAM is uniquely positioned to design and anchor this fellowship, ensuring it creates meaningful impact for both the government and the fellows.

For further details or queries regarding the fellowship, you may kindly reach out to :

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