



SAARTHI - सारथी

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करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

सार्वजनिक नीति सलाहकार

A Public Policy Advisor is a professional who studies laws, regulations and government programmes in depth to advise on the best policy solution to a problem. They gather data and research, analyse different options, and guide...



Scan for everything on this career

Salary, exams, colleges, the routes in and the steps after — all on the portal.

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/public-policy-advisor

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri · ब्लॉक समदड़ी · बालोतरा (Block Samdari · Balotra)

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सुशील कुमार शर्मा

प्रधानाचार्य, रा.उ.मा.वि. जेठन्तरी · मास्टर ट्रेनर
Principal, GSSS Jethantri · Master Trainer



श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास · व्याख्याता (इतिहास)
Designed & developed · Lecturer (History)

विशेष धन्यवाद · SPECIAL THANKS



सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



वनिता कुमारी

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



कमलेश चौधरी

व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) · रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। · An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

A Public Policy Advisor is a professional who studies laws, regulations and government programmes in depth to advise on the best policy solution to a problem. They gather data and research, analyse different options, and guide governments, think-tanks, companies or NGOs on how to design or improve policy so that ordinary people benefit. Working across fields like education, health, environment, economy and law, their work directly shapes society. It is an intellectual, research-driven and influential career that blends law, economics and social science.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Bachelor's in any field; a Master's in policy/law/economics is preferred
Course duration	Bachelor's 3–4 yrs + Master's (MPP) 1–2 yrs
Starting salary	₹25,000–40,000/month
Work mode	Research & advisory role in think-tanks/government/organisations

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in law, government and understanding society's problems
- Passion for writing, debating and creating change
- Enjoy finding solutions based on data, research and reasoning

ABILITIES

- Analytical and critical thinking
- Objectivity, patience and attention to detail
- Ability to explain complex information in simple language

KEY SKILLS

- Policy research and gathering evidence (data, surveys, case studies)
- Writing clear policy papers, reports and briefs
- Basic grasp of economics and public finance
- Coordinating with stakeholders and government officials
- Analysis and evaluation of data and policy options
- Understanding of law, the Constitution and regulatory frameworks
- Effective communication, presentation and advocacy

4 How to get there

- 1 After Class 12 (any stream), do a bachelor's in law, political science, economics or sociology.
- 2 Build policy and research experience through debate, Model UN, writing and internships.
- 3 Sit an entrance exam (e.g. NLSAT-MPP) for a Master of Public Policy (MPP) or postgraduate degree in public administration/law.
- 4 Start as a research associate/intern in a think-tank, government department or an MP/MLA's office.
- 5 Develop expertise in one sector (e.g. education, health, environment) and publish policy papers.
- 6 With experience, grow from policy analyst to policy advisor and director.

MAIN EXAMS

- NLSAT-MPP – NLSIU Bengaluru Master of Public Policy entrance test
- Institute-level MPP/public-policy entrance tests (e.g. Takshashila, Kautilya, Jindal)

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- National Law University, Jodhpur (NLU Jodhpur) — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://www.nlujodhpur.ac.in/>)
- National Law School of India University (NLSIU) – Master of Public Policy — Bengaluru, Karnataka (<https://www.nls.ac.in/programme/master-of-public-policy/>)
- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore – Public Policy (PGPPM) — Bengaluru, Karnataka (<https://www.iimb.ac.in/>)

- Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) — New Delhi (<https://www.iipa.org.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Kautilya School of Public Policy — Hyderabad, Telangana (<https://kautilya.org.in/>)
- Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (O.P. Jindal Global University) — Sonapat, Haryana (<https://jgu.edu.in/jsqp/>)
- The Takshashila Institution – Policy School — Bengaluru, Karnataka (<https://school.takshashila.org.in/>)

ONLINE

- Takshashila GCPP – ऑनलाइन पब्लिक पॉलिसी प्रोग्राम — Online (<https://school.takshashila.org.in/>)
- IGNOU – MA लोक प्रशासन / नीति — Online / distance (<https://www.ignou.ac.in/>)
- Ashoka University – Online & Digital Learning (नीति व शासन) — Online (<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/>)

FEES

At government institutions, bachelor's fees are relatively low (₹10,000–50,000/year). NLSIU's two-year MPP costs roughly ₹5 lakh/year (tuition + housing), while private institutes (Kautilya, Jindal) can charge ₹5–15 lakh for an MPP. Takshashila's online policy courses are more affordable, and scholarships are available.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- NLSIU – Need-based Financial Aid & Scholarships (<https://www.nls.ac.in/>)
- Buddy4Study – Public Policy & Law Scholarships (<https://www.buddy4study.com/>)
- SJE Rajasthan – Scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Think-tanks and policy research institutes, government ministries and NITI Aayog, NGOs, corporate public-affairs departments, international organisations (UN, World Bank) and universities.

WORK CULTURE

Mostly office-based research and writing, usually a 5-day week. Report deadlines, field visits, seminars and stakeholder meetings are common. The environment is intellectual, discussion-driven and team-based.

WHO HIRES

- Think-tanks and policy institutes (e.g. CPR, Takshashila, ORF, CSEP, PRS Legislative Research)
- NGOs and development/philanthropic organisations
- International organisations (UN, World Bank, UNICEF, WHO)
- Central and state governments, NITI Aayog and ministries
- Corporate public-affairs, sustainability and regulatory affairs departments
- Universities, policy consulting firms and media/data-research institutes

DEMAND (2026)

India's growing emphasis on data-driven and evidence-based governance has sharply increased demand for trained policy professionals in NITI Aayog, ministries, think-tanks and companies. New areas like climate, digital regulation, health, education and urbanisation continuously need policy specialists. Opportunities are also rising in corporate public-affairs and international organisations, making this an emerging and influential career.

7 Career growth

- 1 Research Associate / Research Intern
- 2 Policy Analyst
- 3 Public Policy Advisor
- 4 Director / Head – Policy & Research

EARNINGS

Starting	₹25,000–40,000/माह
Mid level	₹50,000–90,000/माह
Senior level	₹1,50,000–3,00,000+/माह

Per PayScale, a Policy Analyst in India earns on average about ₹5.9 lakh/year (roughly ₹50,000/month), starting around ₹28,000/month. With experience, expertise and senior roles (director, senior advisor) in think-tanks or international organisations, income rises considerably. Corporate public-affairs roles tend to pay higher.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- A chance to make a direct, meaningful impact on society and governance
- Intellectual, varied and continuously learning work
- Broad opportunities across government, think-tanks, corporates and international bodies

The challenges

- Higher education (a master's) is often needed for influential roles
- Policy change is slow — results can take years to appear
- Dependence on funding and the political climate brings uncertainty

9 Real-life journeys

Nitin Pai

Co-founder & Director, The Takshashila Institution (public policy research & education centre)

A gold medallist from Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Nitin Pai worked for over a decade as a policymaker in Singapore's technology sector before returning to India and co-founding The Takshashila Institution in 2010 — an independent think-tank for research and education in public policy. He writes regularly on geopolitics, defence economics and governance and has taught policy and international relations to thousands of young professionals. His journey shows how, through rigorous research and clear writing, a citizen can shape the country's policy direction.

The Takshashila Institution · <https://school.takshashila.org.in/faculty/nitin-pai>

Yamini Aiyar

Former President & Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research (CPR)

Yamini Aiyar is one of India's leading policy researchers, educated at St. Stephen's, Cambridge and the London School of Economics. In 2008 she founded the 'Accountability Initiative' at CPR and pioneered one of India's largest public-expenditure tracking surveys, showing how money for schemes like education actually reaches the ground. In 2017 she became President and Chief Executive of CPR, and her research on public finance, federalism and state capacity has deepened India's policy debate. Her story inspires girls who want to change the country through evidence-based policy.

Centre for Policy Research · <https://cprindia.org/people/yamini-aiyar/>

10 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Mediator / Arbitrator
- Patent Attorney / IP Lawyer
- Human Rights Lawyer

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Public Policy Advisor — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%b8%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%9c%e0%a4%a8%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%95-%e0%a4%a8%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%a4%e0%a4%bf-%e0%a4%b8%e0%a4%b2%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b9%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0/>
2. NLSIU – Master of Public Policy — <https://www.nls.ac.in/programme/master-of-public-policy/>
3. NITI Aayog (Government's premier policy think-tank) — <https://www.niti.gov.in/>
4. PayScale – Policy Analyst Salary (India) — https://www.payscale.com/research/IN/Job=Policy_Analyst/Salary
5. The Takshashila Institution – Public Policy — <https://takshashila.org.in/>



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