



**Centre for
Pastoralism**

April 2026

Senior Research Associate position at Centre for Pastoralism

Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) is a Sahjeevan initiative that seeks to undertake research aimed at enhancing our understanding of pastoralist ecosystems, enhance pastoralist livelihoods, recognize and conserve livestock breeds, facilitate the restoration of grazing lands, and undertake outreach with policy makers, media, students and civil society.

CfP is initiating a five-year national collective effort to strengthen pastoral production systems in India, aligned with the declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism (IYRP) by the United Nations. Pastoralists, spread across 22 states and diverse agro-ecological regions, contribute significantly to livestock biodiversity, food security, ecological sustainability, and rural economies. However, they face growing challenges related to shrinking grazing lands, limited market access, inadequate veterinary services, weak policy recognition, and legal vulnerabilities.

To advance this agenda, CfP seeks to hire a dynamic professional who will support policy advocacy at the central and state levels, coordinate pilot initiatives across agro-climatic zones, facilitate research on economic and ecological contributions of pastoral systems. The roles will involve engagement with key ministries, support activation of pastoral cells within government departments, design training modules, and build partnerships with civil society and youth groups. The selected candidate will also help leverage IYRP-2026 for national visibility through events, documentation, and outreach initiatives. This is an opportunity to contribute to a nationally significant effort aimed at securing livelihoods, conserving indigenous breeds, and strengthening India's pastoral future.

NOTE: This is a full time, 2-year position based out of New Delhi with travel to our field sites across the country.

You should apply if you have:

- A minimum of a Master's degree in the Social Sciences, Public Policy, Rural Development, Social Work (MSW), Development Studies or related fields.
- Experience in research and/or the development sector of least 4-5 years, with the following broad skills:
 - Well organised, motivated, and capable of functioning independently
 - Basic understanding of the pastoralism/agriculture/social sector
 - Experience in policy analysis, research and documentation, including data analysis and compilation of information from a wide range of sources.
 - Experience in a wide variety of writing styles -- policy documents, research papers and status reports



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- Experience in communication and partnership building with a range of partners, including governments departments, researchers, industry and civil society.
- Ability to provide immediate responses to demands from government officials, ministers, departments, etc.
- Willing to travel
- Language fluency: English, Hindi

As a Senior Research Associate at CfP, you will:

1. Conduct policy research and analysis on pastoralism, livestock systems, and allied sectors
2. Map existing central and state policies, identify gaps, and propose actionable recommendations
3. Lead the drafting of policy briefs, research papers, status reports, and submissions
4. Compile and analyse field data and secondary sources to inform policy positions
5. Engage with government departments, partners, and networks for consultations and inputs
6. Liaison with officials for specific policy processes, consultations, and follow-ups
7. Translate field insights into structured documentation and policy narratives
8. Track policy developments and prepare timely responses, notes, and communication
9. Support publication processes and contribute to knowledge outputs

We expect the following:

- A minimum commitment of two years, extendable by mutual agreement. The first three months will be treated as a probationary period.
- Location: CfP's Delhi office in Saket (Monday–Friday)
- This is an in-person role; hybrid arrangements are not available

In return, you can expect:

1. An annual salary in the range of 7-8 LPA. The final salary offer will be based on experience.
2. Access to CfP's library of resources, datasets on Indian pastoralism and our network of partners and collaborators.
3. An energetic, diverse team of professionals
4. A focused, high-intensity learning environment

If you feel you are a good fit for CfP's policy advocacy research work and would like to work with us, please apply using this [Google Form](#).

Only shortlisted candidates will receive an email response for an interview. We will interview candidates on a rolling basis.

For more additional information on CfP, our policy advocacy work or this role, please contact: Ramesh Bhatti (ramesh@sahjeevan.org) or Vasant Saberwal (vasant@centreforpastoralism.org).