

The logo for the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (iihs) is located in the top left corner. It consists of the lowercase letters "iihs" in a white, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right. The logo is set against a dark red rectangular background.

iihs®

INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research Associate –
Risk & Resilience

About Us

The Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is a national education institution committed to the equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of Indian settlements.

IIHS aims to establish an independently funded and managed national university of eminence for research and innovation focused on the challenges and opportunities of India's urban transition. The proposed IIHS University will be an institution of eminence that will host an integrated programme of quality campus-based education and research, training and lifelong learning for working professionals, distance and blended learning, as well as a whole array of practice and advisory services. The university will have a strong interdisciplinary orientation bringing together theory and praxis that is grounded in the South Asian context and also engages with and draws from knowledge across the globe.

For more information, please see <http://www.iihs.co.in>

About the Practice Programme

IIHS sees practice as deeply connected with its teaching, learning and research agendas, as well as a core part of its mission of urban transformation. The IIHS Practice Programme provides advisory services to national and state governments, public, para-statal municipal agencies, international agencies and private firms in the broad area of human settlements and urbanisation. Across different projects, it focuses on providing cutting edge and integrated solutions to some of India's emerging urban development challenges that draw from and are located in the particular economic, spatial, institutional and political realities of Indian settlements. In addition to institutional projects, IIHS faculty also individually serve on a number of national and state level government committees and policy fora.

About the Recovery with Dignity project

Recovery with Dignity is a two-year project conducted by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore and the University of East Anglia (UEA), United Kingdom. Funded by the British Academy, the project aims to understand experiences of recovery in post-disaster situations across three states in India – Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala and examine how recovery processes represent vulnerable populations. A long history of disasters in Odisha and Tamil Nadu has mobilised multiple forms of humanitarian action, through a range of stakeholders from government, civil society, and international aid agencies to the private sector and citizen groups. Despite several positive steps towards strengthening disaster management, deep structural challenges to sustainable recovery remain. Central to effective and inclusive recovery processes is how disaster-affected communities are portrayed following the event and how this shapes the recovery and other support processes that are implemented. Recovery with Dignity aims to cover the evolution of post-disaster management, with a detailed focus on how the losses, long-term needs and voices of affected communities are represented through the media, official reporting and other mechanisms. The project, we will also have a strong element of 'research for impact' where community engagement through local NGOs or civil society actors will be key.

Job Description

IIHS invites applications for the role of Research Associate to work as part of an international, interdisciplinary project called [Recovery with Dignity](#).

Apart from the work related to the Recovery with Dignity project, the Research Associate will contribute to ongoing research on reviewing urban resilience and adaptation in India, with opportunities to learn about systematic literature review methods and contribute to related academic outputs.

The position of Research Associate – Risk & Resilience will be housed within the Practice Programme at IIHS. The position seeks a person whose research and practice interests are centered on the issues of risk, hazard exposure, vulnerability, and institutional and local coping capacities, particularly in the context of Indian policy. This is a contractual position for an initial term of 11 months, renewable on mutual consent.

Activities and Tasks

Responsibilities would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Working within a multi-disciplinary team that includes geographers, development practitioners, climate change researchers, sociologists and GIS specialists;
- Conducting background desk-based reviews related to the three case sites of Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala;
- Conducting fieldwork (scoping and primary data collection through semi-structured interviews) with the larger team, setting up and conducting interviews with multiple stakeholders; engaging with community-centric activities as required;
- Co-authoring journal articles, policy briefs and disseminating research findings through multiple channels;
- Contributing to a discrete piece of research, reviewing urban resilience and adaptation in India;
- Providing support to other IIHS activities including academics, research, training, practice and operations;
- Participating in all activities of Institution-building at IIHS; carrying out tasks as assigned by IIHS; and travelling on IIHS work within or outside the country as needed.

Structure and Reporting

The Research Associate – Risk & Resilience will report to the Consultant – Practice at IIHS and will be required to collaborate effectively with a diverse group of internal teams and external individuals/organisations, and students.

Person Specification

- A Masters' degree in Development Studies/Climate and Sustainability Science/Disaster Management/Urban Planning or relevant related areas;
- A minimum of one year of post-qualification research experience, preferably related to disaster management with some experience of fieldwork;
- Fluency in at least one of the following languages in addition to English: Oriya, Tamil, or Malayalam.

Other skills required for this role, include:

- Demonstrated research and/or consulting skills in the interdisciplinary areas of disaster risk reduction, climate risk assessment and development studies within an urban focused environment;
- Demonstrated attention to detail;
- Excellent communication, relationship management, and interpersonal skills;

- The ability to work individually and in a team, in a fast paced, dynamic environment.

This is a contractual position for an initial term of 11 months, renewable on mutual consent. This offer is on an exclusive basis, which implies that other professional assignments (whether compensated or not) that bear a potential conflict of interest with IIHS cannot be undertaken.

The search will remain open until the position is filled.

Location

The position will be based out of the IIHS, Bangalore and will include travel within India, including field-based work, as necessary.

Review and Assessment

The role and performance of the incumbent shall be subject to normal review and assessment systems at IIHS.

Diversity Policy

IIHS is an equal opportunity employer that encourages women, people with disabilities and those from economically and socially excluded communities with the requisite skills and qualifications to apply for positions.

To apply

If you are interested to explore this opportunity with us, please fill the online application form by clicking [here](#). (You can also click on the “Apply Now” button at the end of the Job Description displayed on the website).

Contact

Please write to us at hr@ihs.co.in if you need any clarifications while filling the online application form.



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