

Job title:

Associate Director (AD)

About the Centre for Development and Promotion of Science (CDPS)

The world is increasingly moving towards an innovation economy, driven by exponential progress in science and technology (S&T) and the growth of vibrant ecosystems to commercialize research. To be a global leader in science and technology, India needs to be at the forefront of research: **the creation of new science & technology knowledge (research) and its translation to economic and social goods**. This would ensure sustained economic growth that is not overly dependent on the service sector, and the use of the scientific method to attain our social goals. We believe that this is the right time for India to revive its S&T agenda. We have the economic size, the talent pool, a large market size and a vibrant startup ecosystem to both invest in research and be able to translate S&T knowledge into economic value. Countries such as China seized this opportunity beginning in the 1990s and have revitalized their S&T ecosystem through systematic reforms and programs. It is no surprise that today, China rubs its shoulders with and is even ahead of the United States in areas such as artificial intelligence.

The **Centre for Development and Promotion of Science (CDPS)** has been conceptualised as a non-profit institution of excellence dedicated to build capacity and advancing policy solutions that foster scientific enquiry and research, and facilitate the creation, and dissemination and translation of new scientific knowledge. The Centre will work with all stakeholders to develop and strengthen the science ecosystem in India in order to advance scientific research and its translation into economic value and social good. The Centre also aspires to be a thought-leader in the space of science in India and set the narrative for science in the country. The Centre will have five key verticals: Policy Reforms (housed at CCS), Government Engagement and Support, Capacity Building for Institutions, Engaging with the Corporate Sector, and Science Communications (flagship event, www.indiasciencefest.org).

CDPS is backed by Varun Aggarwal, who is a successful entrepreneur and researcher, and Ashish Dhawan, a private equity investor turned philanthropist. Varun is passionate about building science for India and wrote a book on the science ecosystem of India. He believes that India needs to be a pioneer in scientific research to have sustainable social and economic

progress. Ashish Dhawan is the chairperson of Ashoka University, a leading liberal arts university in India, and Central Square Foundation, and is passionate about promoting science in India.

CDPS receives guidance from its panel of advisors that comprises Luis Miranda, Dr. Swaminathan Sivaram, Thomas Barlow, Samir K. Brahmachari, Sanjay Sarma, Venkatesh Narayanamurti, Kris Gopalakrishnan, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Vijay Chandru and Gagandeep Kang.

Job Profile:

CDPS is looking for a highly entrepreneurial Associate Director to join the team in an exciting time of organisational growth and development. The AD will play a key role in placing India at the forefront of global innovation through the creation of science and technology research and its translation into social and commercial applications. The ideal candidate would be an **entrepreneurial institution builder** with **high intellectual vitality** and the **ability to build and nurture long-term relationships** with stakeholders across various sectors. An added advantage would be him/her having a deep passion for science and technology and the desire to direct work to develop and strengthen the science ecosystem in India.

The AD will play a key role in supporting the CEO and the Founders to build CDPS into a world-class institution. The AD will provide the necessary vision, leadership, and skills which will enable the organisation to achieve its larger goal and create societal wealth from the adoption of STEM-based R&D in the public, private, and social sectors of India.

The AD's goal is to work closely with the CEO as well as the other team members to establish CDPS as the pre-eminent organisation for enhancing the science and technology ecosystem in India, with expertise in policy, government engagement, capacity building, liaising with the corporate sector, and science communications.

Roles and Responsibilities:

We are looking for an entrepreneur who is driven to transform the STEM ecosystem in the country.

- Co-develop strategy alongside the CEO and boot-strap CDPS's operating capabilities - including designing the business plan and organisation structure, hiring an exceptional team, allocating resources, and securing long term funding

- Raise the level of debate and awareness amongst government, industry, academia and students about the essential role of STEM research in economic development, and how it is best fostered
- Work on capacity building by primarily engaging with institutions, companies and quasi-governmental bodies
- Frame policies that help bring efficiency in scientific R&D financing and dismantling regulatory barriers to innovation and science entrepreneurship in India
- Establish CDPS as a thought leader by building a robust network of partners, collaborators and supporters
- Undertake programs and projects with institutions in the ecosystem, private sector, and consolidate best practice for change
- Develop a comprehensive framework of review relating to targets, growth, policies, and procedures
- Develop a credible voice of science in the country, and make India Science Fest the leading science event in India and the world

In two years, we envision the following:

- Increasing the scientific temper of the nation
- A world-class “Ease of Doing Research” index
- Deep engagement with policymakers at top-most levels of government
- A number of policy briefs on areas of relevance to India
- Deep engagement with the 10 most innovative companies in India
- Partnerships to build capacity with the top 7-10 educational institutions
- Bring together over 500 people from across the ecosystem as part of the yearly India Science Fest
- Build CDPS into a best-in-class organisation with top talent

Desired Qualifications, Skills and Abilities:

- Undergraduate and graduate degrees from top institutions in STEM, Economics, Management, or Public Policy. While area of study can vary, passion for science and a keen interest in strengthening the science ecosystem in India is important
- 12+ years of work experience in a professional environment with the ability to juggle multiple projects and work with a diverse group of stakeholders. Exceptional candidates with fewer years of work experience are encouraged to apply
- Prior experience in program management and/or working with the government in some capacity will be an added advantage

- Entrepreneurial self-starter with excellent leadership skills and strong strategic and operational experience; has managed and led teams to achieve strong results
- Critical thought leader with high intellectual vitality, the desire to continuously learn, read, and engage on a variety of topics. While the person may only have basic knowledge of the science and technology sector, we highly value the willingness to learn
- Highly motivated and able to inspire team members to work towards goals and targets, and take ownership of the organization and mission
- Ability to network, establish credibility and build and nurture deep relationships with various senior governmental and non-governmental actors
- High ability to collaborate and actively listen to others, understanding and valuing others' views
- Excellent facilitation and stakeholder management skills
- Operating style suited to working in a small-organization setting, where teamwork and resourcefulness are highly valued
- Adaptable and flexible to changing circumstances and needs of the role
- Prior experience of working with the government in some capacity will be an added advantage

Reporting:

The AD will report to the CEO of CDPS.

Compensation:

CDPS recognizes that the right candidate will have a significant impact on the success of the organization and is prepared to offer an attractive compensation package for the non-profit sector, commensurate with experience.

Location:

The position will be based in Delhi. Frequent travel around India with potential for international travel to partners and conferences will be expected.

To apply:

Candidates should apply by emailing ashish.d@centralsquarefoundation.org. Applicants must attach an updated CV, and a statement of intent. Selected candidates will be called for interviews.