About Airawat Research Foundation

Airawat Research Foundation (ARF) is a Section 8 company established to advance a mission of national importance leveraging AI for sustainable urban transformation. ARF serves as the institutional vehicle for the prestigious AI Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cities, led by IIT Kanpur, under the aegis of a consortium selected by the Government of India.

As India rapidly urbanizes, cities face mounting challenges related to **air quality, urban governance, energy efficiency, mobility, solid waste management, and urban flooding**. ARF is committed to addressing these pressing issues through state-of-the-art, AI-enabled solutions that combine cutting-edge research with real-world implementation.

With a strong focus on technology-driven public service delivery, ARF collaborates with academic institutions, government stakeholders, industry partners, and civil society to develop scalable, policy-aligned innovations.

Being part of ARF means contributing to one of India's most forward-looking initiatives in the use of AI for urban sustainability. It offers a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and high-impact environment where technology meets governance, and research meets real-world change.
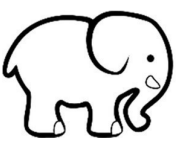
Job Title: Chief Operating Officer

Experience: 15 Years

Location: Kanpur

About the Role: ARF seeks a visionary and execution-focused Chief Operating Officer to lead operations. The COO will play a critical role in advancing ARF's mission to foster urban sustainability through AI-enabled solutions. This includes managing large-scale public policy initiatives, working closely with government stakeholders, and translating research innovations into scalable civic impact. As a key member of the leadership team, the COO will work closely with the Project Director, CEO and other relevant stakeholders to operationalize national- and state-level projects, build robust partnerships, and ensure excellence in project execution and stakeholder engagement.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Lead day-to-day management of ARF operations including staffing, budgeting, logistics, legal compliance, and internal process governance.

2. Lead strategic implementation of ARF's flagship projects

3. Interface with Ministries, State Departments, Urban Local Bodies, and Regulatory Authorities to drive adoption and compliance.

4. Institutionalize governance and operational processes across partner institutions and stakeholders.

5. Coordinate multi-stakeholder projects involving academia, civil society, and industry.

6. Oversee grant management, government reporting, and policy-aligned program delivery.

7. Drive cross-functional synergy between AI research, field operations, and public sector needs.

Qualifications & Experience: Master's degree in public policy, Urban Planning, Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Management, or a related field from a reputed institution.

Professional Experience:

1. 15 years of progressively responsible leadership roles in public sector programs, development consulting, think tanks, or government-linked institutions.

2. Demonstrated ability to lead large, interdisciplinary teams and oversee complex multi-stakeholder projects.

3. Experience working directly with ministries, departments, or regulatory bodies will be an advantage.

Compensation: Commensurate with qualification, experience and market standards.