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सहायक वन संरक्षक (राजस्थान)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests is the entry-level gazetted post of the Rajasthan Forest Service — the first rung of the officer cadre in the forest department. A Ranger holds one range; the Assistant Conservator works above...



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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

The Assistant Conservator of Forests is the entry-level gazetted post of the Rajasthan Forest Service — the first rung of the officer cadre in the forest department. A Ranger holds one range; the Assistant Conservator works above that, at the level of a sub-division covering several ranges. The responsibility includes preparing and implementing forest management plans, wildlife conservation and the management of protected areas, plantation and forest improvement programmes, action on forest offences, budgets and working plans, and supervising Rangers and the staff under them. The post is distinctive in Rajasthan, where the spread of desert, tiger country such as Ranthambhore and Sariska, and steadily increasing pressure on forest land all exist together. One thing is worth knowing at the outset: the examination for this post is often held jointly with the one for Forest Range Officer, so a single preparation can compete for both.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	A Bachelor degree with at least one of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Application/Science, Environmental Science, Horticulture, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics or Zoology; or a Bachelor degree in Agriculture, Forestry or Engineering (Service Rules 1962, Schedule I)
Recruiting body	Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), Ajmer — department: Forest
Age limit	18 to 40 years, reckoned on the 1st of January following the last date for applications (Service Rules 1962) — the upper limit is relaxed for reserved categories and for women (detail below)
Starting salary	The pay matrix level is not given in the service rules — see the advertisement. This is a gazetted officer post
Demand	50% by direct recruitment, 50% by promotion (from Ranger Grade-I)

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- A deep interest in forests, wildlife and ecology
- Leadership, planning and administrative responsibility
- Being in the field and a physically active life

ABILITIES

- High physical endurance — the rules prescribe a 25 km walking test
- Composure and firmness in situations of confrontation
- The ability to plan long, because a forest cycle runs in decades

KEY SKILLS

- Preparing forest working plans and management plans
- Action under the forest and wildlife legislation
- Remote sensing, GIS and forest survey
- Coordinating with forest villages, panchayats and other departments
- Wildlife management, census and running protected areas
- Managing budgets, tenders and plantation programmes
- Supervising and training Rangers and subordinate staff

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 with science.
- 2 Do a graduation, and choose the subject deliberately. The rule gives two routes: the degree carries at least one of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Application/Science, Environmental Science, Horticulture, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics or Zoology; or it is a degree in Agriculture, Forestry or Engineering. An arts or commerce degree does not lead here. Note that this is the same subject list as for Forest Range Officer — one graduation confers eligibility for both posts.
- 3 Take the physical preparation seriously, and start it first. Rule 13 prescribes the standards — male candidates: height 163 cm, chest 84 cm normal with 5 cm expansion; female candidates: height 150 cm, chest 79 cm normal with 5 cm expansion.
- 4 And the same rule carries the condition that sets this post apart from most government posts: a walking test. A male candidate must cover 25 kilometres and a female candidate 16 kilometres, each within 4 hours, on foot. The test is arranged by the Commission or by the State Government. It cannot be met with a few weeks of preparation — it needs months of regular walking and running, and that preparation has to run alongside the written preparation, not after it.
- 5 Your age must be between 18 and 40, and you must be in good mental and bodily health; on selection a certificate to that effect has to be produced from a Medical Authority notified by the Government.
- 6 Apply when the RPSC advertisement appears and sit the examination.

MAIN EXAMS

- The examination is conducted by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission in accordance with the syllabus prescribed in Schedule II to the rules (rule 18).
- The second sub-rule of rule 18 changes how preparation for this post should be planned, so read it carefully: the Commission may hold a combined examination for this Service and for the Rajasthan Forest Subordinate Service — that is, Forest Range Officer — preparing separate lists of selected candidates for each. Practically, one examination can compete for two posts, one a gazetted officer post and the other in the subordinate service. When applying, check in the advertisement whether that cycle's examination is combined and in what order preferences must be given.
- Treat the physical test as seriously as the written examination. Covering 25 kilometres — 16 for women — in four hours on foot is a real test, and this is among the few government recruitments that examine endurance at that level. The rules record that the test is arranged either by the Commission or by the State Government.
- The current text of the physical standards differs from the older one, and the difference is worth knowing. The old rule 13, quoted in a footnote, carried only the 25 km distance and no separate standards for women; the current rule prescribes 150 cm height, 79 cm chest and a 16 km distance for women. It would be a mistake to read the older text as today's condition.
- The recruitment structure: 50% of posts are filled by direct recruitment and 50% by promotion, the promotion coming from Ranger Grade-I. So there are two ways to this officer post in the forest department — direct recruitment, or promotion while serving as a Forest Range Officer. Which is why this page is worth reading alongside the Forest Range Officer page.
- Note — this post is not in the Schedules to the CET Rules 2022, so a CET score is not required for it. It is a gazetted Commission post.

- Relaxation in the upper age limit — 5 years for male candidates of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, More Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections; 5 years for women candidates of the General category; and 10 years for women candidates of those same categories. Which means plainly that the bare figure printed against a post understates a reserved-category woman's eligibility by a decade — if you are in that category, work out your eligibility only after adding the relaxation. In Rajasthan, 30% of the posts in direct recruitment are reserved category-wise for women candidates. Widows and divorced women have no upper age limit at all — the rules say it in those words. It is Rule 13(9) of the Rajasthan State and Subordinate Services (Direct Recruitment by Combined Competitive Examination) Rules 1999, it appears again as the same proviso in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Subordinate Service Rules, and RPSC advertisements reproduce it. A widow must furnish a certificate of the death of her husband from the competent authority, and a divorced woman the proof of divorce. The exact terms of relaxation and reservation are given in that recruitment's own advertisement.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Government colleges and state universities — B.Sc. with botany, zoology, chemistry, geology, mathematics or environmental science — All divisions of Rajasthan (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Rajasthan agricultural universities — B.Sc. Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture — Bikaner, Jobner, Udaipur, Kota (<https://raubikaner.org/>)
- Forest Research Institute, Dehradun — the national forestry institution — Dehradun, Uttarakhand (<https://fri.icfre.gov.in/>)
- District stadiums, school grounds and open roads — where the 25 km walk is actually prepared for, at no cost — In every district and block

ONLINE

- वन विभाग, राजस्थान — This is the department the post belongs to (<https://forest.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- UPSC Indian Forest Service — the parallel all-India route from the same degree — Union Public Service Commission (<https://upsc.gov.in/>)
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change — Government of India (<https://moef.gov.in/>)
- India Code — the Indian Forest Act and the Wild Life (Protection) Act — Government of India (<https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>)
- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfls%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) — भारत सरकार के निःशुल्क ऑनलाइन कोर्स — Free (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पुस्तकालय (NDLI) — Free books and study material (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

The cost of reaching this post is low, and that is its most notable feature. A graduation is cheap at government colleges and agricultural universities, and the required subjects are ordinary B.Sc. subjects — no expensive specialist course is needed. The physical preparation, which is the most decisive preparation for this post, is entirely free: practising a 25 kilometre walk happens on village roads and costs nothing. That is also where this recruitment is at its most equal — a candidate without the means for coaching can stand level on the physical test, and that test is not a light one. The examination fee is a few hundred rupees with a concession for reserved categories. One further practical point: the same qualification and preparation also serve for the UPSC Indian Forest Service examination.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

The sub-divisions and offices of forest divisions, protected areas and tiger project areas, plantation and nursery areas, and villages along the forest. Postings are often remote and touring is a regular part of the work.

WORK CULTURE

This is a uniformed officer post in which technical knowledge, administrative responsibility and physical work all run together. Much of the day is spent outdoors — inspection, patrolling and touring — alongside working plans, budgets and the supervision of subordinate staff. One feature of the profession is its timescale: a forest cycle runs in decades, so the full result of planting or protection done today is seen by the next generation. It is one of the few jobs where the scale of thinking has to be larger than your own tenure. On the other side the confrontation is real: the interests behind encroachment on forest land, illegal felling, mining and poaching are often powerful, and acting against them falls within the authority and the duty of this post. For someone who wants to live and work in nature and accepts physical hardship and remote postings, there are few better-fitting posts in the state government.

WHO HIRES

- Forest Department, Rajasthan — forest divisions and sub-divisions
- Tiger project, national parks and sanctuaries
- The wildlife wing and working plan units
- Social forestry and forest development projects

DEMAND (2026)

The structure of the Rajasthan Forest Service is permanent and the Assistant Conservator is its entry post, so the need for it persists; climate change, plantation targets and growing attention to wildlife conservation have made the work more important still. The cadre is small — being the entry post of a state service, the number of posts is lower than for Ranger — and 50% are filled by promotion, so direct-recruitment vacancies are more limited again. Two points are practically useful when planning. First, because of rule 18(2) this examination is often combined with the Forest Range Officer examination, so one preparation serves two posts and improves the odds accordingly. Second, the same graduate qualification and the same preparation also work for the UPSC Indian Forest Service examination, which is the route into an all-India service. Preparation in this direction therefore counts across three different examinations. The number of posts describes the department's requirement, not your chances of selection. One thing to be clear about — the "demand" described above counts posts, not your chance of getting one. Selection is by open competition and the number of applicants runs to many times the number of posts, so most candidates are not selected in any given recruitment. That is not an argument against this career; it is an argument against making it your only plan. Keep studying or building a skill alongside your preparation, so that the year is not lost whichever way the result goes.

7 Career growth

- 1** Assistant Conservator of Forests — the entry-level gazetted post of the state forest service; 50% direct recruitment, 50% by promotion from Ranger Grade-I
- 2** Deputy Conservator of Forests — on 5 years as Assistant Conservator, 100% by promotion
- 3** Deputy Conservator of Forests (Selection Scale) — by promotion
- 4** Deputy Conservator of Forests (Super Time Scale) — on 3 years in the Selection Scale and 18 years of service in all
- 5** Deputy Conservator of Forests (Higher Super Time Scale) — on completing 25 years of service in all

EARNINGS

Starting	विज्ञप्ति में घोषित पे मैट्रिक्स स्तर के अनुसार (राजपत्रित पद)
Mid level	₹70,000 – ₹95,000 (भत्तों सहित, उप वन संरक्षक स्तर पर)
Senior level	₹1,10,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, चयन एवं सुपर टाइम स्केल पर)

The 1962 service rules do not give a pay matrix level, so no starting figure is printed on this page — it will be in that cycle's advertisement. This is a gazetted officer post, so its pay sits above the subordinate-service posts including Forest Range Officer. The mid-level and senior figures above are approximate and are not confirmed from any official document. Two things apart from pay matter practically: departmental quarters are usually provided, and because postings are remote the cost of living tends to be lower than in cities. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, so that it can be compared directly against other careers. Dearness allowance (60% of basic since 1 January 2026) and house rent allowance are added on top of it, so take-home pay is appreciably higher. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate monthly income including allowances, not basic pay. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The pay matrix level for this post could not be confirmed on this page from an official document — it is not in the service rules and not in the CET Rules 2022 schedule. No level is therefore stated here. The correct figure is printed in the official advertisement for the recruitment; check it there before applying. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- A gazetted officer post, the first rung of the forest department's officer cadre
- One preparation serves Forest Range Officer and the Indian Forest Service alike
- The physical preparation is free — a level test even without the means for coaching
- The result of the work stays visible for decades
- Departmental quarters and field facilities are usually provided

The challenges

- A 25 km walking test — 16 km for women — needing months of preparation
- The cadre is small and 50% of posts go by promotion
- Remote postings and irregular hours
- Confrontation with the interests behind encroachment, illegal felling and mining
- An arts or commerce degree does not lead to this post

9 Sources & further reading

1. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — Rajasthan Forest Service Rules, 1962 — https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/moduleCategory/202510300130350269784RFS1962_merged.pdf
2. Rajasthan Public Service Commission — advertisements — <https://rpsc.rajasthan.gov.in/advertisements>
3. Forest Department, Rajasthan — <https://forest.rajasthan.gov.in/>
4. UPSC — the Indian Forest Service examination — <https://upsc.gov.in/>
5. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>



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