



SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

भारतीय वायु सेना अधिकारी

An Indian Air Force officer defends the nation against every aerial threat and works with the Army and Navy to protect the country. Officers fly aircraft, operate technical systems and lead search-and-rescue during disasters. As...



Scan for everything on this career

Salary, exams, colleges, the routes in and the steps after — all on the portal.

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/air-force-officer

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri · ब्लॉक समदड़ी · बालोतरा (Block Samdari · Balotra)

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सुशील कुमार शर्मा

प्रधानाचार्य, रा.उ.मा.वि. जेठन्तरी · मास्टर ट्रेनर
Principal, GSSS Jethantri · Master Trainer



श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास · व्याख्याता (इतिहास)
Designed & developed · Lecturer (History)

विशेष धन्यवाद · SPECIAL THANKS



सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



वनिता कुमारी

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



कमलेश चौधरी

व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) · रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

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

An Indian Air Force officer defends the nation against every aerial threat and works with the Army and Navy to protect the country. Officers fly aircraft, operate technical systems and lead search-and-rescue during disasters. As of 2026, women fighter pilots are being permanently inducted, and a modern fleet of Tejas and Rafale jets is making the force stronger than ever.

2 At a glance

Domain	Defence / Air Force
Minimum qualification	12th (Physics, Maths) / Graduate
Selection exam	NDA, AFCAT, CDS
Starting salary	₹56,100+/month

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Serving the nation and showing courage
- Interest in aircraft, technology and machines
- Working outdoors in challenging environments

ABILITIES

- High physical and mental fitness
- Fast, accurate decisions under pressure
- Leadership and discipline

KEY SKILLS

- Flying and navigation skills
- Technical and engineering aptitude
- Teamwork and communication
- Problem-solving
- Situational awareness and alertness
- Physical endurance

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass 12th with Physics and Maths, then take the NDA exam (for the flying branch).
- 2 After graduation, take the AFCAT exam for flying, technical and ground-duty branches.
- 3 Entry is also possible via the CDS exam after graduation.
- 4 Engineering graduates can apply to the technical branch.
- 5 Clear the SSB interview and medical test after the written exam.
- 6 After selection, train at the Air Force Academy, Hyderabad (Dundigal). Women are now inducted as fighter pilots.

MAIN EXAMS

- NDA (National Defence Academy exam) — by UPSC, after 12th.
- AFCAT (Air Force Common Admission Test) — after graduation.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- National Defence Academy (NDA) — Pune, Maharashtra (<https://www.nda.nic.in/>)
- Air Force Academy (AFA) — Dundigal, Hyderabad, Telangana (<https://indianairforce.nic.in/>)
- Indian Air Force (Careers) — All India (<https://afcat.cdac.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Rashtriya Indian Military College (feeder) — Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Sainik Schools (feeder institutions) — Across India incl. Rajasthan

ONLINE

- Ministry of Defence — Join Indian Air Force portal — Online (<https://agnipathvayu.cdac.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

Training at defence academies (NDA, AFA) is largely government-funded and cadets receive a stipend. Any prior graduate/engineering education can cost roughly ₹6,000 to ₹10,00,000 depending on the institution.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- Buddy4Study (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)
- Vidya Lakshmi Education Loan Portal (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Officers may be posted to any of the IAF's five operational and two functional commands. Work spans the flying, technical or ground-duty branch — at airbases, stations and sometimes remote locations.

WORK CULTURE

Work is usually 8–9 hours a day, 6–7 days a week, with a shift system. Discipline, team spirit and handling challenging situations are expected.

WHO HIRES

- Indian Air Force (primary employer)
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) — post-service
- DRDO and defence PSUs
- Ministry of Defence
- Civil aviation companies (as pilots after service)

DEMAND (2026)

Demand for trained air force personnel remains steady due to modernisation, new aircraft like Tejas and Rafale, and Agnipath/Agniveer Vayu recruitment. Opportunities for women in combat and other branches are growing. 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 Flying Officer
- 2 Flight Lieutenant
- 3 Squadron Leader
- 4 Wing Commander
- 5 Group Captain
- 6 Air Commodore
- 7 Air Vice Marshal
- 8 Air Marshal
- 9 Air Chief Marshal

EARNINGS

Starting	₹56,100/माह
Mid level	₹1,00,000–1,30,000/माह
Senior level	₹2,00,000+/माह

Basic pay is indicative; officers also get Military Service Pay, flying allowance, housing, medical and other benefits. Source: afcat.cdac.in pay-allowances.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Pride of national service and a respected rank
- Attractive pay, allowances and lifelong benefits
- Opportunities for flying, adventure and leadership

The challenges

- Strict physical and medical standards
- Frequent transfers and time away from family
- High risk and stressful situations

9 Real-life journeys

Mohana Singh Jitarwal

Squadron Leader, Fighter Pilot, Indian Air Force

Hailing from Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan, Mohana Singh is one of India's first three women fighter pilots. Commissioned into the fighter stream in 2016, she flew the Hawk jet and in 2024 became the first woman to fly the indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohana_Singh_Jitarwal

Avani Chaturvedi

Fighter Pilot, Indian Air Force

Avani Chaturvedi is one of India's first three women fighter pilots and the first Indian woman to fly a fighter jet solo. In 2018 she made history by flying a MiG-21 Bison solo.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avani_Chaturvedi

Pankaj Bhujade

Squadron Leader, Fighter Pilot, Indian Air Force

Born in the small village of Madheli in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, Pankaj Bhujade studied up to Class 5 at the local Zila Parishad school. Through Sainik School and the NDA, he rose to become a frontline fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force. He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) as one of the five pilots who took part in the 2019 Balakot airstrike. His journey from an ordinary village school to the heights of the sky is an inspiration for every rural child who dares to dream big.

Business Standard · https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/iaf-pilot-bhujade-from-village-boy-to-balakot-hero-119081401971_1.html

10 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Indian Navy Officer
- Indian Army Officer
- Indian Coast Guard

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance Portal — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/>
2. Indian Air Force — Official Website — <https://indianairforce.nic.in/>
3. AFCAT Application Portal — <https://afcat.cdac.in/>
4. UPSC — NDA/CDS Exam — <https://upsc.gov.in/>



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Interest and aptitude tests, government jobs, skill courses and a CV builder — free, no login, and it works offline.

career.gssjethantri.in