



SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

भारतीय थल सेना अधिकारी

An Indian Army Officer leads the country's largest armed force. Officers defend the nation's borders, protect it from internal and external threats, and command humanitarian relief during disasters. It is a career of discipline,...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/army-officer

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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 Army Officer leads the country's largest armed force. Officers defend the nation's borders, protect it from internal and external threats, and command humanitarian relief during disasters. It is a career of discipline, courage and leadership, blending honour, adventure and service to the nation.

2 At a glance

Domain	Defence / Armed Forces
Minimum qualification	NDA after 12th; CDS/OTA after graduation
Selection exam	NDA, CDS (UPSC) + SSB interview
Starting salary	Approx ₹68,000–₹1,00,000/month (with allowances)

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Serving the nation and patriotism
- Leadership and leading teams
- Adventure and outdoor life

ABILITIES

- Physical fitness and stamina
- High integrity and discipline
- Calm decision-making under pressure

KEY SKILLS

- Leadership and team management
- Physical and mental toughness
- Map reading and navigation
- Discipline and punctuality
- Strategic and quick decision-making
- Communication and following orders
- Problem-solving

4 How to get there

- 1 After 12th, clear the NDA exam (UPSC); Science stream needed for technical arms.
- 2 On clearing NDA, train at the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, then IMA Dehradun.
- 3 After graduation, take the CDS exam (UPSC) for IMA Dehradun (Permanent Commission).
- 4 After graduation, Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai for Short Service Commission.
- 5 Engineering/technical entries (TES/TGC/UES) allow IMA entry without a written exam.
- 6 All routes require clearing the SSB interview and medical test; women officers now serve in many arms.

MAIN EXAMS

- NDA (National Defence Academy exam, UPSC)
- CDS (Combined Defence Services exam, UPSC)

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- National Defence Academy (NDA) — Khadakwasla, Pune (<https://www.nda.nic.in/>)
- Indian Military Academy (IMA) — Dehradun
- Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) — Dehradun (<https://www.rimc.gov.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Sainik School Chittorgarh — Chittorgarh, Rajasthan
- Military School Ajmer — Ajmer, Rajasthan

ONLINE

- SSBCrack (SSB/NDA/CDS prep) — Online (<https://www.ssbcrack.com/>)
- 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

At NDA, IMA and OTA, cadets receive a monthly stipend (around ₹56,100) during training, making it virtually free. Sainik/Military School fees are modest and government-subsidised.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) for wards of ex-servicemen
- Sainik School / RIMC subsidised education and state scholarships
- Rajasthan Government scholarship schemes (SSO Portal) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Officers serve in regiments, border posts, field units, training academies and headquarters. Postings can be anywhere in the country—from high-altitude Siachen to the desert—with periodic transfers.

WORK CULTURE

The culture is disciplined, hierarchical and team-based, demanding physical and mental toughness, along with strong camaraderie, respect and a tradition of leadership.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Indian Army (various regiments and corps) | • Army Education Corps and technical corps |
| • NDA and IMA (as instructors) | • Ministry of Defence and Army HQ |
| • United Nations peacekeeping missions (deputation) | • Military hospitals and logistics units |

DEMAND (2026)

There is a steady demand for officers in the Indian Army, with recruitment every year through NDA/CDS. Rajasthan has a deep military tradition, making this a prestigious and stable career choice for its youth. 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 Lieutenant
- 2 Captain
- 3 Major
- 4 Lieutenant Colonel
- 5 Colonel
- 6 Brigadier
- 7 Major General
- 8 Lieutenant General
- 9 General (Chief of Army Staff)

EARNINGS

Starting	₹56,100 (मूल, लेवल-10)
Mid level	₹1,20,000–₹2,00,000/month
Senior level	₹2,00,000–₹2,50,000+/month

The starting figure is BASIC PAY — the entry basic at pay matrix Level 10 — 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. A Lieutenant's basic pay is about ₹56,100–₹1,77,500 (Pay Level 10), plus Military Service Pay and allowances. The Chief of Army Staff earns around ₹2,50,000/month. Figures are indicative and may vary. The figures above rest on the 7th Central Pay Commission matrix, which is what applies as of 16 August 2026. The Union Cabinet approved the Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission on 28 October 2025, and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. It has not reported yet, so no revised pay scale exists — but these figures will change. Dearness allowance has been 60% of basic pay since 1 January 2026.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Pride of serving the nation and high social respect
- Stable pay, pension, housing and medical benefits
- Adventurous life, leadership and travel opportunities

The challenges

- Postings in risky and harsh conditions
- Long separations from family and frequent transfers
- Demanding physical and mental requirements

9 Real-life journeys

Captain Shiva Chauhan

Captain, Corps of Engineers — first woman officer deployed at Siachen

From Udaipur, Rajasthan, Shiva Chauhan lost her father at 11, studied civil engineering, and topped the SSB with All India Rank 1. Trained at OTA Chennai, she was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 2021 and in January 2023 became the first woman officer deployed at Kumar Post (15,632 ft) on the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.

News24 · <https://news24online.com/india/who-is-captain-shiva-chouhan-lost-father-at-11-cracked-ssb-with-air-1-first-woman-officer-to-be-deployed-at-worlds-highest-battlefield-she-is-from/881647/>

Major Shaitan Singh Bhati

Major, 13 Kumaon Regiment — Param Vir Chakra (posthumous)

Born in Banasar village, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Major Shaitan Singh Bhati led a company of 13 Kumaon at the Battle of Rezang La during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. At 16,000 ft, with 120 soldiers, he made a heroic last stand against a far larger Chinese force and was martyred, earning India's highest gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra.

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

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 Air Force Officer
- Agniveer

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance Portal — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%ad%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%a4%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%af-%e0%a4%a5%e0%a4%b2-%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%a8%e0%a4%be-%e0%a4%85%e0%a4%a7%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%80-indian-army-officer/>
2. Join Indian Army official website — <https://joinindianarmy.nic.in/>
3. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) — <https://www.upsc.gov.in/>
4. National Defence Academy (NDA) — <https://www.nda.nic.in/>
5. 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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