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करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

अभिनेता

An Actor brings characters to life on screen — in films, television serials, web series (OTT) and advertisements — so convincingly that audiences believe the character is real. Through dialogue, expression, voice and body...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/actor

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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 Actor brings characters to life on screen — in films, television serials, web series (OTT) and advertisements — so convincingly that audiences believe the character is real. Through dialogue, expression, voice and body language before the camera, the actor carries the story to viewers. This is the screen-acting pathway (film/TV/OTT): it means giving auditions, starting with small and supporting roles, and rising to lead roles through constant practice and hard work. The OTT boom has widened opportunities for fresh, ordinary-background talent, but the field demands patience, struggle and self-belief alongside talent.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	No fixed degree required; acting training & Class 12 help
Course/prep duration	6 months to 3 years (diploma/degree) + years of practice
Starting salary	Highly unstable — ₹500–2,000/day (junior artist) or less
Work mode	Freelance/project-based; depends on auditions & contracts

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in expressing stories, characters and emotions
- Passion for the world of film, TV and web series
- Enthusiasm for performing before stage, camera and audiences

ABILITIES

- Ability to convey emotion through voice, face and body
- Memory, concentration and quick learning of dialogues

- Resilience to handle rejection and strong self-confidence

KEY SKILLS

- Acting, dialogue delivery and emotional expression
- Body language, facial expression and ease before the camera
- Added crafts like dance, stunt/action and singing
- Discipline, time management and coordination with a team
- Voice, diction and command over languages (Hindi/English/regional)
- Improvisation, script reading and character analysis
- Giving auditions, building showreel/portfolio and networking

4 How to get there

- 1 Build stage experience and confidence through school/college plays, theatre groups and cultural programmes.
- 2 Take a course/workshop at an acting institute (FTII, NSD, Whistling Woods, Actor Prepares, Barry John) or learn diction, expression and dance from an experienced mentor.
- 3 Prepare professional photos, a showreel and portfolio, and register on casting platforms/agencies.
- 4 Start giving auditions for ads, short films, TV and web series, and accept small/supporting and background roles.
- 5 With experience, networking and a good agent, move from supporting roles towards lead roles.
- 6 Keep sharpening your craft and stay patient despite rejection — that is the key to success.

MAIN EXAMS

- FTII Joint Entrance Test (FTII JET) for the acting course
- National School of Drama (NSD) entrance test and audition

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- फिल्म एंड टेलीविजन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया (FTII), पुणे — Pune, Maharashtra (national) (<https://ftii.ac.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय (NSD) — New Delhi (national) (<https://nsd.gov.in/>)
- नाट्यशास्त्र / ड्रामेटिक्स विभाग, राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.uniraj.ac.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Whistling Woods International — Mumbai, Maharashtra (<https://www.whistlingwoods.net/admissions/>)
- Anupam Kher's Actor Prepares — Mumbai, Maharashtra (<https://actorprepares.in/>)
- Barry John Acting Studio (BJAS) — Mumbai, Maharashtra (<https://bjas.in/>)

ONLINE

- Barry John Acting Studio – ऑनलाइन/वीकेंड कोर्स — Online (<https://bjas.in/courses-fees/>)
- स्किल इंडिया डिजिटल हब — Online (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)

FEES

Government institutes are relatively affordable — NSD's three-year diploma is almost free/nominal fee with a stipend, and FTII's acting course costs roughly ₹1–1.5 lakh (total). Private institutes (Whistling Woods, Actor Prepares, Barry John) charge roughly ₹50,000 to ₹8–15 lakh depending on course length and level. One can also begin at very low cost through the theatre and workshop route.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- FTII Scholarships (Government of India) (<https://ftii.ac.in/p/scholarships>)
- Film & Theatre Scholarships in India – Buddy4Study (<https://www.buddy4study.com/article/film-and-theatre-scholarships>)
- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- SJE Rajasthan Scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Film and web-series sets, TV studios, ad-film shoots, outdoor locations and audition/casting studios — mainly in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Delhi and other cities.

WORK CULTURE

Work is project-based and irregular; shoots involve long, uncertain hours, early mornings or late nights and travel to different cities. The early phase brings constant auditions and rejection, so patience and discipline are essential.

WHO HIRES

- Film production houses (Yash Raj, Dharma, T-Series, Maddock, etc.)
- Television channels and serial producers (Star, Sony, Zee, Colors)
- Casting agencies, talent agents and theatre/regional-cinema producers
- OTT platforms and streaming studios (Netflix, Amazon Prime, JioHotstar)
- Advertising/ad-film agencies and brands
- Digital/short-film and YouTube content producers

DEMAND (2026)

The explosion of OTT and digital content means India now produces hundreds of web series, films and ads every year, raising demand for fresh faces and character actors. Talented performers from ordinary, small-town backgrounds also get opportunities today. Yet competition is intense — thousands compete for limited roles — so work remains uncertain.

7 Career growth

- 1 Background/junior artist and small roles
- 2 Supporting/character actor
- 3 Lead role actor
- 4 Established/star actor (and further, producer/director)

EARNINGS

Starting	₹500–2,000/दिन या ₹10,000–30,000/माह (बहुत अनियमित)
Mid level	₹50,000–3,00,000/एपिसोड या प्रति प्रोजेक्ट ₹1–10 लाख
Senior level	₹5–50 करोड़+/फिल्म (शीर्ष स्टार)

Income here is extremely unstable and unequal. The honest reality is that most actors struggle for years and work as junior artists for ₹500–2,000 a day or even less; a newcomer film actor often earns ₹1–10 lakh per project. TV leads can earn ₹30,000–3 lakh per episode, while top established stars command ₹5–50 crore per film and a few superstars over ₹100 crore. In short, very few reach the top.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Creative, varied and emotionally rich work — every project is new
- Growing opportunities for fresh, ordinary-background talent in the OTT/digital era
- Potential for fame, recognition and very high earnings if successful

The challenges

- Extremely intense competition and constant rejection
- Irregular income and no job guarantee — financial instability
- Long, uncertain hours, travel and years of struggle before success

9 Real-life journeys

Manoj Bajpayee

Film & OTT actor (*The Family Man*, *Satya*), Padma Shri and four-time National Award winner

Born into a farmer's family in Belwa village, West Champaran district of Bihar, Manoj Bajpayee had his early schooling in a 'hut school'. He came to Delhi chasing the dream of acting, where the National School of Drama (NSD) rejected him three times. Refusing to give up, he struggled for years and won recognition as Bhiku Mhatre in the 1998 film 'Satya'. He went on to win four National Film Awards, receive the Padma Shri (2019), and become a household name through the OTT series 'The Family Man'. His journey shows that even from an ordinary village and repeated rejection, dedication and hard work can carry you to the very top of screen acting.

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

Sai Pallavi

South Indian & Hindi film actress (*Premam*, *Fidaa*); from MBBS doctor to star

Sai Pallavi, from the small town of Kotagiri in the Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu, had no film background. She completed her MBBS (medical degree) from Tbilisi, Georgia, but chose her passion for acting. Her role as Malar in the 2015 Malayalam film 'Premam' made her an overnight sensation and a celebrated actress across Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam cinema. She famously turned down a multi-crore fairness-cream endorsement and appears on screen make-up-free, breaking beauty stereotypes. Her story inspires girls who want to make a name in acting on their own terms, without any godfather.

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

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.

- Singer
- Model
- Choreographer

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Actor — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%85%e0%a4%ad%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%a8%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%a4%e0%a4%be-actor/>
2. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) — <https://ftii.ac.in/>
3. National School of Drama (NSD) — <https://nsd.gov.in/>
4. Actor salary in India – Indeed — <https://in.indeed.com/career/actor/salaries>
5. National Scholarship Portal — <https://scholarships.gov.in>



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