



SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

रंगमंच कलाकार

A Theatre Artist brings a story to life on stage before a live audience — conceiving the play, reading the script, rehearsing, acting, directing, and using dialogue, body language and expression to make a character feel real....



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/theatre-artist

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

A Theatre Artist brings a story to life on stage before a live audience — conceiving the play, reading the script, rehearsing, acting, directing, and using dialogue, body language and expression to make a character feel real. Some act on stage, some direct plays, and some carry social issues to people through street theatre (nukkad natak). It is a craft of passion and discipline — income often begins modestly, but with training, hard work and crossover into film/OTT it can grow into a respected, meaningful career.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Interest in theatre after Class 12; graduation for higher training
Training duration	NSD diploma 3 years; workshops a few months
Starting salary	₹8,000–15,000/month (per show/modest)
Work mode	Stage/rehearsal; project & repertory based

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in stories, plays and live stage performance
- A desire to connect social issues to art and street theatre
- A passion for understanding characters, emotions and human behaviour

ABILITIES

- A clear voice, good diction and physical expressiveness
- Imagination, teamwork and discipline
- Memory, concentration and confidence on stage

KEY SKILLS

- Acting, dialogue delivery and character-building craft
- Script reading, play interpretation and improvisation
- Basic understanding of set, lighting, costume and music
- Team coordination, time management and taking feedback
- Voice, breath, diction and stage movement training
- Direction, blocking and running rehearsals
- Communication skills for street theatre and community engagement

4 How to get there

- 1 Start with school/college plays, drama clubs and local theatre groups to gain stage experience.
- 2 Attend workshops at institutions like Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur or the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- 3 Practise voice, physical expression and acting regularly; watch and read good plays.
- 4 After graduation, aim for a diploma/degree at the National School of Drama (NSD) or a university dramatics department.
- 5 Prepare the minimum plays acted in and audition required for NSD's entrance.
- 6 Join a repertory or theatre group and gradually reach film/OTT and teaching opportunities.

MAIN EXAMS

- National School of Drama (NSD) entrance test and audition (preliminary + final interview)
- University Dramatics course entrance examinations

5 Where to study**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES**

- नाट्यशास्त्र विभाग, राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय — Jaipur, Rajasthan
- जवाहर कला केंद्र (रंगमंच कार्यक्रम) — Jaipur, Rajasthan
(<https://jkk.artandculture.rajasthan.gov.in/content/ArtandCulture/en/jawahar-kala-kendra/Programms/PerformingArt/Theatre.html>)
- राजस्थान संगीत नाटक अकादमी — Jodhpur, Rajasthan
(<https://jkk.artandculture.rajasthan.gov.in/content/ArtandCulture/en/RajasthanSangeetNatakAkadamy/Hoi>)

- राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय (NSD) — New Delhi (<https://nsd.gov.in/delhi/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- बैरी जॉन एक्टिंग स्टूडियो — Mumbai / New Delhi
- अनुपम खेर्स एक्टर प्रिपेयर्स — Mumbai

ONLINE

- संगीत नाटक अकादमी (नाट्य संसाधन) — Online (<https://sangeetnatak.gov.in/sections/Drama>)
- संस्कृति मंत्रालय - कला व संस्कृति योजनाएँ — Online (<https://culture.gov.in/>)

FEES

School/college and local theatre-group experience is usually free or very low-cost. Dramatics courses at the University of Rajasthan cost little at government rates (roughly ₹5,000–20,000/year). The National School of Drama's 3-year diploma is nearly free, and selected students also receive a monthly scholarship (stipend). Private acting schools can cost from ₹30,000 to ₹2,00,000+.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- संस्कृति मंत्रालय - विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रों में युवा कलाकारों को छात्रवृत्ति (SYA) (<https://culture.gov.in/offering/schemes-services/award-scholarships-young-artists-different-cultural-fields>)
- संस्कृति मंत्रालय - वरिष्ठ/कनिष्ठ फेलोशिप (संस्कृति क्षेत्र) (<https://culture.gov.in/award-seniorjunior-fellowships-outstanding-persons-fields-culture>)
- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- Buddy4Study - कला फेलोशिप व छात्रवृत्तियाँ (<https://www.buddy4study.com/article/top-arts-scholarships-fellowships-indian-students>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Theatre groups and repertories, auditoriums and cultural centres (like Jawahar Kala Kendra), schools-colleges and universities, street theatre and NGOs, and film/TV/OTT sets.

WORK CULTURE

Work is project-based — several weeks of rehearsal lead to shows, often in evenings and on weekends. Income can be irregular, so many artists combine teaching, dubbing, voice-over or film/OTT work. The environment is creative, collaborative and driven by passion.

WHO HIRES

- Theatre groups, repertory companies and drama troupes
- Jawahar Kala Kendra and state cultural centres (Rajasthan)
- Schools, colleges and universities (drama teaching)
- The NSD Repertory and cultural academies
- Film, television and OTT production houses
- NGOs and social organisations (street theatre and awareness campaigns)

DEMAND (2026)

India sees a steady stream of stage plays, theatre festivals, street theatre and cultural events, and the OTT/web-series era has raised demand for trained theatre artists because directors want performers with real acting skill. Earning a stable income from pure theatre is challenging, but combined with teaching, voice-over, film and OTT it can become a sustainable career.

7 Career growth

- 1 Amateur/beginner artist in a theatre group
- 2 Trained stage actor (NSD/university diploma)
- 3 Senior actor / assistant director
- 4 Theatre director and founder of one's own group/repertory

EARNINGS

Starting	₹8,000–15,000/माह
Mid level	₹20,000–40,000/माह
Senior level	₹50,000–1,50,000+/माह

Early theatre income is usually modest — many artists work per show or on honorarium. Salaried posts like the NSD Repertory and experience raise earnings. Established directors, and those who cross over into film/TV/OTT or add teaching/voice-over, can earn considerably more. These are honest estimates; income depends on the city, group and opportunities.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- A chance to turn your passion — story, acting and stage — into a career
- Confidence, communication and creativity that help for a lifetime
- Pathways to expand into film, OTT, teaching and voice-over

The challenges

- Income can be low and irregular at the start
- Late evenings, weekend rehearsals and uncertain project schedules
- Stiff competition; success needs patience and constant effort

9 Real-life journeys

Ratan Thiyam

Theatre director, founder of Chorus Repertory Theatre; former NSD Director and Chairperson

Ratan Thiyam of Manipur was a leading figure of Indian theatre's 'Theatre of Roots' movement. Trained at the National School of Drama (NSD), he founded the Chorus Repertory Theatre in Imphal in 1976, where he wove Manipuri tradition, music and visual beauty into contemporary theatre to create world-renowned plays like 'Chakravayuha' and 'Uttar Priyadarshi'. He also served as Director and later Chairperson of NSD, and was honoured with the Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship. His life shows that a career devoted entirely to the stage can still earn national and international recognition.

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

Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry

Theatre director, 'The Company' theatre group, Chandigarh; NSD graduate

Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry graduated from the National School of Drama (NSD) in 1975, where she trained under the legendary Ebrahim Alkazi. In Chandigarh she founded her own theatre group, 'The Company', blending Punjabi folk aesthetics with Western classics to create memorable plays like 'Nagamandala', 'Yerma' and 'Kitchen Katha'. She was honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for theatre direction (2003) and the Padma Shri (2011). Her journey inspires every girl who wants to find her own voice in direction and on the stage.

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

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.

- Actor
- Singer
- Model

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Theatre Artist — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%82%e0%a4%97%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%82%e0%a4%9a-%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%b2%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0-theatre-artist/>
2. National School of Drama – Admissions — <https://admission.nsd.gov.in/>
3. Sangeet Natak Akademi – Drama — <https://sangeetnatak.gov.in/sections/Drama>
4. Ministry of Culture – Scholarships to Young Artists — <https://culture.gov.in/offering/schemes-services/award-scholarships-young-artists-different-cultural-fields>
5. Indeed – Actor Salary (India) — <https://in.indeed.com/career/actor/salaries>



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