



SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

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करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

कस्टम्स अधिकारी

A Customs Officer enforces customs law — collecting duty on imported and exported goods, preventing smuggling, and checking goods at airports and ports. At senior level it is part of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect...



Scan for everything on this career

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

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

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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 Customs Officer enforces customs law — collecting duty on imported and exported goods, preventing smuggling, and checking goods at airports and ports. At senior level it is part of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes), entered through the UPSC Civil Services Exam; at inspector level, entry is also via SSC CGL. The service works under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

2 At a glance

Domain	Government service / Indirect taxes & customs
Minimum qualification	Graduate in any subject
Selection exam	UPSC CSE (IRS-C&IT) · SSC CGL (Inspector)
Starting salary	₹44,900+/mo (Inspector) · ₹56,100+/mo (IRS)

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Working in a team and maintaining order
- Interacting with people and helping solve problems
- Attention to detail and inspection

ABILITIES

- Alertness and sharp observation
- Calm decision-making under pressure
- Logical and numerical ability

KEY SKILLS

- Understanding of customs and indirect tax law
- Detecting smuggling and intelligence analysis
- Use of computers and scanning equipment
- Integrity and vigilance
- Inspecting, classifying and valuing goods
- Documentation and report writing
- Communication and public dealing

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete 10+2 in any stream.
- 2 Complete a graduate degree in any subject from a recognised university.
- 3 To become an officer (IRS-C&IT), take the UPSC Civil Services Exam and choose 'Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes)' in your preferences.
- 4 To become an Inspector (Customs/Central Excise), clear the SSC CGL examination.
- 5 After selection, undergo training at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN).
- 6 Through departmental promotion, an inspector can also rise to Superintendent and Assistant Commissioner.

MAIN EXAMS

- UPSC Civil Services Examination (IRS-C&IT)
- SSC CGL (Inspector)

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- कोई भी मान्यता प्राप्त सरकारी विश्वविद्यालय (स्नातक हेतु) — University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and others

ONLINE

- यू.पी.एस.सी. व एस.एस.सी. सी.जी.एल. ऑनलाइन तैयारी मंच — Online
- 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

Government education up to graduation costs very little. The UPSC/SSC application fee is around ₹100 (free for women, SC/ST and PwD candidates). Coaching is optional.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- Buddy4Study (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

- विद्या लक्ष्मी (शिक्षा ऋण पोर्टल) (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Airports, seaports, international border posts, container depots, custom houses and CBIC offices across India; in Rajasthan, also at Jaipur and other inland container depots.

WORK CULTURE

Not purely a desk job — much of the work is on-site inspection and surveillance, often in shifts. 5–6 days a week, 8–9 hours a day. It is a transferable service, with opportunities for persons with disabilities too.

WHO HIRES

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
- Land customs stations and Special Economic Zones (SEZ)
- Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue
- Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)

DEMAND (2026)

Growing international trade, e-commerce and the GST system keep demand for customs and indirect-tax officers steady. Recruitment happens every year through both UPSC and SSC CGL. 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 Inspector / Assistant Commissioner (entry level)
- 2 Superintendent / Deputy Commissioner
- 3 Joint / Additional Commissioner
- 4 Commissioner

5 Principal / Chief Commissioner

6 Member / Chairman, CBIC

EARNINGS

Starting	₹44,900 (मूल, लेवल-7)
Mid level	₹1,00,000–1,50,000/माह (उपायुक्त/आयुक्त स्तर)
Senior level	₹2,25,000+/माह (प्रधान/मुख्य आयुक्त, सी.बी.आई.सी. अध्यक्ष तक)

The starting figure is BASIC PAY — the entry basic at pay matrix Level 7 — 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. Inspectors start at 7th Pay Commission Level 7 (₹44,900) and IRS officers at Level 10 (₹56,100), plus DA, housing and other allowances. Figures are indicative. 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

- Stable, respected government job with authority
- Two entry routes — UPSC or SSC CGL
- Varied, dynamic work — not limited to a desk

The challenges

- Tough competition in the exams
- Shifts, transfers and postings at borders/ports
- Risk and pressure in anti-smuggling work

9 Real-life journeys

Vanaja N. Sarna

Former Chairman, CBEC/CBIC, IRS (C&CE) 1980 batch

Vanaja N. Sarna is a 1980-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) who took charge in 2017 as Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC, now CBIC) — the topmost post in the customs and indirect-taxes department. Her career shows that women can rise to the very top of this service.

Business Standard / PIB · https://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/ms-vanaja-n-sarna-irs-c-ce-1980-appointed-as-chairman-117033100924_1.html

Yogendra Garg

Principal Commissioner, GST & Customs (IRS – C&CE)

Yogendra Garg is a senior officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) who has served as zonal head for indirect taxes in the North-East region. He studied mechanical engineering at Punjab Engineering College and did a PGDM from IIM Bangalore. His journey shows that an engineering and management background can also lead to senior posts in the customs service.

Meghalaya Monitor · <https://meghalayamonitor.com/call-to-identify-special-talent-on-customs-day/>

10 Sources & further reading

1. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) — <https://www.cbic.gov.in>
2. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) — <https://upsc.gov.in>
3. Staff Selection Commission (SSC) — <https://ssc.gov.in>
4. Rajasthan Career Guidance — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%b8%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%9f%e0%a4%ae%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b8-%e0%a4%85%e0%a4%a7%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%80-customs-officer/>
5. National Scholarship Portal — <https://scholarships.gov.in>
6. 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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