



SAARTHI • सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल • Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य"

करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

भारतीय रक्षा संपदा सेवा — आई.डी.ई.एस.

The Ministry of Defence holds a very large amount of land in India — cantonments, firing ranges, airstrips, married accommodation. Keeping the record of that land, preventing encroachment, handling acquisition and leases, and...

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

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श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

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



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सुरेश कुमार सैन

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



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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

The Ministry of Defence holds a very large amount of land in India — cantonments, firing ranges, airstrips, married accommodation. Keeping the record of that land, preventing encroachment, handling acquisition and leases, and running the municipal administration of Cantonment Boards is the work of the Indian Defence Estates Service. Officers also serve as Chief Executive Officer of a Cantonment Board, running civic services like roads, sanitation, water and schools.

2 At a glance

Service type	Central Group-A (Gazetted)
Selection exam	UPSC Civil Services (CSE)
Minimum qualification	Graduation in any stream
Domain	Defence land management and cantonment administration

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Interest in land, maps and records
- Enforcing law and rules
- Municipal administration and civic services

ABILITIES

- Reading old records and drawing the facts out of them
- Negotiating between different parties
- Holding to the rule under pressure

KEY SKILLS

- Land records management
- Legal process and litigation
- Negotiation and coordination
- Municipal administration
- Survey and GIS literacy
- Public grievance redressal

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete a bachelor's degree in any stream.
- 2 Apply for the UPSC Civil Services Exam (age 21–32).
- 3 Clear Prelims -> Mains -> Interview.
- 4 Based on rank, you are allotted IDES.
- 5 After the Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie, departmental training at NIDEM.

MAIN EXAMS

- UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)
- The service is listed among the Central Group "A" services in the examination notice.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- रक्षा संपदा महानिदेशालय (डी.जी.डी.ई.), रक्षा मंत्रालय — Government of India (<https://dgde.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय रक्षा संपदा प्रबंधन संस्थान (एन.आई.डी.ई.एम.) — Departmental training institute (<https://nidem.dgde.gov.in/>)
- राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.uniraj.ac.in>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Vajiram & Ravi — Private paid coaching — this portal does not endorse any institute. Look at the free options first: the Chief Minister Anuprati coaching scheme, and the recruiting board's own syllabus and past question papers. Check fees, facilities and success claims for yourself; no one can guarantee selection.

ONLINE

- SWAYAM / NPTEL — Online (Govt of India) (<https://swayam.gov.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/>)

- BYJU'S IAS (Online) — Private paid coaching — this portal does not endorse any institute. Look at the free options first: the Chief Minister Anuprati coaching scheme, and the recruiting board's own syllabus and past question papers. Check fees, facilities and success claims for yourself; no one can guarantee selection. (<https://byjus.com/ias/>)

FEES

Graduation in any stream costs roughly ₹10,000–₹50,000 per year in government colleges. UPSC coaching may cost ₹1–2 lakh, while the UPSC exam fee itself is very low (about ₹100–₹200). Figures are indicative.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Cantonment Board offices, Defence Estates offices, the Ministry of Defence, and Army/Navy/Air Force headquarters.

WORK CULTURE

Both office and field — site inspections of land, removing encroachment, board meetings. Posted in a cantonment you deal with ordinary residents directly. 5-6 days a week.

WHO HIRES

- Ministry of Defence
- Directorate General Defence Estates
- Cantonment Boards across the country

DEMAND (2026)

There are Cantonment Boards and Defence Estates offices across the country, so a few posts come up each year; the numbers are small. It matters to keep two things apart: "demand" here counts the posts on offer, not your chance of getting one. In the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025, 958 candidates in all were recommended across the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Foreign Service, the Indian Police Service and every central Group A and Group B service combined; in 2024 the figure was 1,009. That is the whole country's intake for a year. So do not make this your only plan — keep a second route (a postgraduate degree, a skill, or another recruitment) moving alongside it.

7 Career growth

- 1 Assistant Defence Estates Officer
- 2 Defence Estates Officer / CEO, Cantonment Board
- 3 Deputy Director General, Defence Estates
- 4 Principal Director, Defence Estates
- 5 Director General, Defence Estates

EARNINGS

Starting	₹56,100 (मूल, लेवल-10)
Mid level	₹1,30,000–₹1,80,000
Senior level	₹2,00,000–₹2,25,000

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. As per the 7th Pay Commission; basic pay starts at Level-10 (₹56,100) plus housing, travel and medical allowances. Amounts are per month and 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

- Both administrative and municipal experience
- An independent role as CEO of a cantonment
- The standing of a Ministry of Defence service

The challenges

- Constant pressure of land disputes and litigation
- Unpleasant duties such as removing encroachment
- A small cadre, so promotion can be slow

9 Sources & further reading

1. Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) — official website — <https://dgde.gov.in/>
2. National Institute of Defence Estates Management (NIDEM) — <https://nidem.dgde.gov.in/>
3. NIDEM — DGDE organisation page — <https://dgde.gov.in/en/organization/national-institute-of-defence-estates-management-nidem/>
4. UPSC Examination Notice No. 05/2026-CSE (4 February 2026) — the list of services is in this notice — <https://www.upsc.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notif-CSP-2026-Engl-060226Rev.pdf>
5. UPSC official website — <https://www.upsc.gov.in>
6. Rajasthan Career Guidance Portal — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/>
7. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>
8. Civil Services Examination 2025 final result — 958 candidates recommended (PIB, 6 March 2026) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2235922>