



इंडियन रेलवे स्टोर्स सर्विस (आई.आर.एस.एस.) Indian Railway Stores Service

Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS) officers manage the procurement, storage and supply chain of materials essential for safe railway operations—from parts for locomotives, coaches, wagons, track and signals to workshop...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/irss

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वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
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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

Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS) officers manage the procurement, storage and supply chain of materials essential for safe railway operations—from parts for locomotives, coaches, wagons, track and signals to workshop materials. It is a Central Group-A service filled through the UPSC Engineering Services Examination.

2 At a glance

Service type	Central Group-A (Engineering)
Selection exam	UPSC Engineering Services (ESE)
Minimum qualification	Engineering graduation
Domain	Stores & materials management

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Interest in supply chain and procurement
- Leadership and management
- Engineering and technology

ABILITIES

- Being alert and organised
- Leadership and planning ability
- Getting work done from people under your direction

KEY SKILLS

- Materials management
- Inventory control
- Negotiation
- E-procurement and data
- Procurement
- Supply chain
- Engineering knowledge

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete an engineering degree (B.E./B.Tech) in any branch.
- 2 Apply for the UPSC Engineering Services Exam (ESE) (age 21–30).
- 3 Clear Prelims -> Mains -> Interview.
- 4 Based on rank, you are allotted IRSS/IRMS.
- 5 Train as a Group-A officer (NAIR, Vadodara).

MAIN EXAMS

- UPSC Engineering Services Examination (ESE)
- After the 2019 reforms, the technical services fall under IRMS.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- एमएनआईटी जयपुर — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://mnit.ac.in>)
- एमबीएम विश्वविद्यालय (इंजीनियरिंग) — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://mbm.ac.in>)
- आईआईटी कानपुर — Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (<https://www.iitk.ac.in>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- एसआरएम यूनिवर्सिटी — Chennai
- एलपीयू — Jalandhar

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/>)
- Made Easy (ESE 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://www.madeeasy.in>)

- Unacademy ESE/GATE — 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://unacademy.com>)

FEES

An engineering degree (B.E./B.Tech) costs roughly ₹68,000–₹2,00,000. Coaching for the UPSC Engineering Services Exam (ESE) may cost ₹1–2 lakh. Figures vary by institution.

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

Railway stores depots, workshops, production units, divisional and zonal offices, Railway Board.

WORK CULTURE

You work both indoors and outdoors, including visits to warehouses and loco sheds. You lead teams of officers. 5-6 days a week, 8-9 hours a day.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Indian Railways (17 zones) | • Railway Board (Stores) |
| • Production units (ICF, RCF, BLW, CLW) | • RITES Ltd |
| • IRCON International | • DFCCIL |

DEMAND (2026)

Keeping the Railways' vast system running needs a constant supply of materials, so demand for stores officers is steady. For Rajasthan, North Western Railway (Jaipur) is a nearby opportunity. 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 Assistant Materials Manager
- 2 Divisional Materials Manager
- 3 Senior Divisional / Deputy Chief Materials Manager
- 4 Chief Materials Manager -> Principal Chief Materials Manager
- 5 General Manager -> Railway Board Member

EARNINGS

Starting	₹56,100 (मूल, लेवल-10)
Mid level	₹1,30,000–₹1,80,000
Senior level	₹2,25,000–₹2,50,000

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

- Key role in the Railways' supply chain
- Security and prestige of government service
- Experience of both engineering and management

The challenges

- Transfers across the country
- High pressure for transparency in procurement
- Field work at depots and workshops

9 Real-life journeys

A. K. Mittal

IRSS officer, former Chairman of the Railway Board

A. K. Mittal was an Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS) officer who rose to the top post of Chairman of the Railway Board (2015-17). His journey shows that even from the Stores Service one can reach the very top leadership of Indian Railways.

Wikipedia / PIB · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Railway_Stores_Service

Shobhna Bandopadhyay

Railway engineering officer, first woman General Manager of a zonal railway

Shobhna Bandopadhyay is a 1987-batch railway engineering officer who in 2023 became General Manager of West Central Railway—the first woman to head a zonal railway. Her 38-year career is an inspiration for women in the Railways' technical Group-A services.

News report · <https://itdcindia.com/west-central-railway-first-woman-general-manager-farewell/>

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance Portal — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/>

2. UPSC official website — <https://www.upsc.gov.in>
3. IRSS (Wikipedia) — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Railway_Stores_Service
4. Indian Railways / Railway Board — <https://indianrailways.gov.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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