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The Food Analyst is the officer in the state food laboratory who tests samples of food and certifies whether a sample conforms to the standard or is adulterated. The post is the counterpart of the Food Safety Officer and the two...



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श्रीमती संघमित्रा

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

The Food Analyst is the officer in the state food laboratory who tests samples of food and certifies whether a sample conforms to the standard or is adulterated. The post is the counterpart of the Food Safety Officer and the two are best understood together: the Food Safety Officer draws the sample from a market, a sweet shop or a dairy unit; the Food Analyst analyses that sample in the laboratory and signs the report — and everything that follows, prosecution included, rests on that report. Technical exactness therefore matters unusually here: one lapse in the laboratory brings a whole case down, while a wrong positive can put an innocent trader into prosecution. The post sits in Rajasthan's Medical & Health Service and is filled 100% by direct recruitment.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	The qualification prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 as amended — the service rules delegate the condition to that Act and those Rules, so the exact qualification must be read there
Recruiting body	Medical & Health Department, Rajasthan — see the advertisement
Age limit	22 to 45 years, reckoned on the 1st of January following the last date for applications — rule 10(1), which governs junior posts (Service Rules 1963) — the upper limit is relaxed for reserved categories and for women (detail below)
Starting salary	The pay matrix level is not given in the service rules — see the advertisement
Demand	100% by direct recruitment — nobody reaches this post by promotion

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- An interest in chemistry, biochemistry and laboratory analysis
- A technical role connected to public health
- Food science and work on quality standards

ABILITIES

- Great exactness — a prosecution rests on the report
- Staying impartial under pressure, because a report has financial consequences
- A systematic manner and strict adherence to standard procedures

KEY SKILLS

- Chemical and microbiological analysis of food samples
- Instrumental analysis — chromatography, spectroscopy and related methods
- Laboratory quality assurance, calibration and NABL accreditation
- Detecting adulteration and comparing against the standard
- Knowledge of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the rules under it
- Writing the analysis report and, where required, giving evidence in court

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 with science — physics, chemistry, and biology or mathematics.
- 2 Move towards a graduation and a postgraduate degree in a subject such as chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology or food technology. One thing is said plainly here: the exact qualification for this post is not printed on this page, because the state service rules do not themselves prescribe it — they leave it to the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and its Rules of 2011.
- 3 So the next step is to read the qualification condition at its source — the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 are on the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India website, and the Food Analyst qualification is prescribed there. The rule says "as amended from time to time", so the current amended text is what to read, not an older summary.
- 4 Your age must be between 22 and 45. This is rule 10(1) for junior posts; rule 10(2) of the same rules sets 25 to 45 for selection and senior posts.

- 5 Practical laboratory experience counts for a great deal on this route — working in a food, drug or water testing laboratory builds exactly the skills the post needs daily, and that period passes on a salary.
- 6 Apply when the advertisement appears, and check the qualification it states against the current text of the 2011 Rules.

MAIN EXAMS

- The post sits at serial 14 among the junior posts in the Schedule and is filled 100% by direct recruitment — no promotion percentage stands against it.
- The qualification on this post is written in an unusual way and needs to be understood exactly. The service rules name no degree themselves; they say the qualification is as prescribed "under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 as amended from time to time". This is qualification by reference, and it has two practical consequences: the exact condition will not be found by searching the state rules, and it can change the moment the central rules are amended, without the state service rules changing at all.
- For that reason no list of degrees is given on this page. This project has not read those central rules, so quoting a condition from them would be guesswork — and a qualification written from guesswork is precisely the error this project has repeatedly avoided. What was read is where the state rules send the condition, and that is what is stated.
- A rename is recorded in the Schedule's remarks and it explains this post's history: "Prior to 5th August, 2011 service rendered as Public Analyst shall be included as service rendered as Food Analysts." The post was formerly called Public Analyst and was renamed when the Food Safety and Standards Act came into force. In older records or older advertisements it will be found under that name.
- That rename was not the only one, and this is what makes it useful. The same Act renamed Food Inspector as Food Safety Officer — a separate page on this site. One legal change therefore renamed both the field officer and the laboratory analyst. A candidate heading into food safety should know both posts and both former names.
- The relationship between the two posts is worth understanding practically as well. The Food Safety Officer draws the sample and the case rests on the exactness of that procedure; the Food Analyst tests it and the prosecution rests on that report. A lapse by either is enough — so in both posts discipline in procedure is the main skill.

- Note — this post is not in the Schedules to the CET Rules 2022, so a CET score is not required for it.
- Relaxation in the upper age limit — 5 years for male candidates of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, More Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections; 5 years for women candidates of the General category; and 10 years for women candidates of those same categories. Which means plainly that the bare figure printed against a post understates a reserved-category woman's eligibility by a decade — if you are in that category, work out your eligibility only after adding the relaxation. In Rajasthan, 30% of the posts in direct recruitment are reserved category-wise for women candidates. Widows and divorced women have no upper age limit at all — the rules say it in those words. It is Rule 13(9) of the Rajasthan State and Subordinate Services (Direct Recruitment by Combined Competitive Examination) Rules 1999, it appears again as the same proviso in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Subordinate Service Rules, and RPSC advertisements reproduce it. A widow must furnish a certificate of the death of her husband from the competent authority, and a divorced woman the proof of divorce. The exact terms of relaxation and reservation are given in that recruitment's own advertisement.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- State universities of Rajasthan — M.Sc. in Chemistry, Biochemistry and Microbiology — Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Kota (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Rajasthan agricultural universities — food technology and dairy technology — Bikaner, Jobner, Udaipur (<https://raubikaner.org/>)
- National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) — Kundli, Haryana and Thanjavur (<https://niftem.ac.in/>)
- State food laboratories and testing laboratories — where the practical experience is built — In Rajasthan

ONLINE

- FSSAI — the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011, where this post's qualification is actually prescribed — Read the qualification condition here, not in the state service rules (<https://www.fssai.gov.in/>)
- India Code — the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 — Government of India (<https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>)
- चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य विभाग, राजस्थान — This is the department the post belongs to (<https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- NABL — laboratory accreditation, which state food laboratories work under — Government of India (<https://nabl-india.org/>)
- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfls%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.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/>)

FEES

A graduation and a Master's in chemistry, biochemistry or microbiology cost very little at Rajasthan's government colleges and universities, and food technology is available at the agricultural universities — no expensive study is needed to move in this direction. A distinctive feature of preparing for this post is that the most important material is free and official: the Food Safety and Standards Act, its rules and regulations and the lists of food standards are all on the FSSAI website — and that is the same document in which this post's qualification condition is written. One source therefore gives both the eligibility and the working basis of the job. The period spent gaining laboratory experience passes on a salary, so it is income rather than cost.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

The state food laboratories and the analysis units of the Medical & Health Department. The work is almost entirely inside the laboratory, with visits outside where evidence has to be given in court.

WORK CULTURE

Laboratory work is quiet and regular — the hours are fixed and the routine far steadier than in field posts. Its character is procedural: every step from receiving a sample, storing it, analysing it and issuing the report is prescribed, and the reliability of the result rests on that discipline. The pressure on this post does not match its quietness, and that is what distinguishes it: the report you sign determines whether a trader is prosecuted or not — so pressure from outside is natural, and the only answer to it is exactness of procedure. Deadlines are real too, because food law requires the analysis report within a prescribed period, and around festivals the number of samples multiplies — the same time when Food Safety Officers draw the most. The credit is invisible: the news carries the seizure of adulterated goods, not the name of the laboratory, though the news was made from that report.

WHO HIRES

- Medical & Health Department, Rajasthan — state food laboratories
- Analysis units connected with the food safety commissionerate
- For gaining experience — accredited food, drug and water testing laboratories

DEMAND (2026)

The food safety structure has strengthened steadily since the 2006 Act and the number of samples has grown, so analytical capacity is a standing need — the more samples Food Safety Officers draw, the greater the load on the laboratory, and the numbers of the two posts are linked. The cadre is nonetheless very small and that should be said plainly: the number of food laboratories in the state is limited, so Food Analyst posts are far fewer than Food Safety Officer posts — the 2022 advertisement carried 200 Food Safety Officer posts, while the analyst cadre is a small fraction of that. Practically, this post should not be made a sole target. The sound approach is to treat a qualification in chemistry, biochemistry or food technology broadly — quality control in the food industry, drug testing laboratories, the pollution control board and private accredited laboratories all open from it, with this government post as one option among them. The number of posts describes the department's requirement, not your chances of selection. 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** Food Analyst — the entry post, 100% by direct recruitment (formerly Public Analyst)
- 2** Senior analyst level posts — the rules record a condition of having worked as Public Analyst or Food Analyst for 10 years
- 3** Supervisory and administrative responsibility in the state food laboratory

EARNINGS

Starting	विज्ञप्ति में घोषित पे मैट्रिक्स स्तर के अनुसार
Mid level	₹60,000 – ₹80,000 (भत्तों सहित, कुछ वर्षों बाद)
Senior level	₹95,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, वरिष्ठ स्तर पर)

The 1963 service rules do not give a pay matrix level for this post, so no starting figure is printed on this page — it will be in that cycle's advertisement. The mid-level and senior figures above are approximate and are not confirmed from any official document; read them as a direction, not a promise. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, 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. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The pay matrix level for this post could not be confirmed on this page from an official document — it is not in the service rules and not in the CET Rules 2022 schedule. No level is therefore stated here. The correct figure is printed in the official advertisement for the recruitment; check it there before applying. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- A quiet, regular laboratory working environment
- 100% direct recruitment — entry is not competed for against promotion
- Both the eligibility and the working basis come from one free source — the FSSAI rules
- The same qualification also works in the food industry, drug testing and accredited laboratories

The challenges

- A very small cadre — laboratories are few, so posts are far fewer than Food Safety Officer
- The qualification is set by reference, so it must be read in the central rules and can change by amendment
- Because prosecution rests on the report, outside pressure comes with it
- The sample load multiplies around festivals
- The credit is invisible — the news is about the adulteration, not the laboratory

9 Sources & further reading

1. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — Rajasthan Medical & Health Service Rules, 1963 — https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202312050451522144998Medical1963_merged.pdf
2. FSSAI — the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011, where this post's qualification is prescribed — <https://www.fssai.gov.in/>
3. India Code — the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 — <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>

4. Medical & Health Department, Rajasthan — <https://rajswasthya.rajasthan.gov.in/>
5. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
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>

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