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करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

## दुभाषिया

An Interpreter is a language specialist who conveys spoken language between two or more parties in real time, live — for example at an international conference, a diplomatic meeting, a court hearing or a business negotiation. A...



### Scan for everything on this career

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

[career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/interpreter](https://career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/interpreter)

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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

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#### वनिता कुमारी

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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

An Interpreter is a language specialist who conveys spoken language between two or more parties in real time, live — for example at an international conference, a diplomatic meeting, a court hearing or a business negotiation. A Translator works on the written word, whereas an Interpreter works instantly on the spoken word — sometimes alongside the speaker (simultaneous) and sometimes when the speaker pauses (consecutive). It demands complete command of two languages, quick thinking, sharp memory and cultural understanding. With India's growing global role, it is a respected and well-paid career.

## 2 At a glance

|                       |                                                                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum qualification | Graduation + high fluency in two languages (usually PG/diploma)    |
| Course duration       | 3–5 yrs in a language + 6 months–2 yrs interpreting training       |
| Starting salary       | ₹20,000–35,000/month                                               |
| Work mode             | Live spoken translation at conferences/meetings (freelance or job) |

## 3 What you need

### INTERESTS

- Deep interest in languages, dialects and human conversation
- Keen to help by speaking accurately and instantly under pressure
- Interest in different cultures, diplomacy and global affairs

### ABILITIES

- Natural ability to understand and speak two or more languages on hearing
- Strong memory, concentration and the ability to pick the right word instantly

- Calm temperament, neutrality and the ability to handle pressure

**KEY SKILLS**

- Bilingual fluency in two languages — listening, comprehending and speaking instantly
- Quick thinking and fast decision-making under pressure
- Cultural awareness and etiquette — conveying tone and context correctly
- Clear pronunciation, voice control, and confidentiality and impartiality
- Simultaneous and consecutive interpretation techniques
- Sharp memory and note-taking (for consecutive interpreting)
- Preparing subject-specific terminology (law, medicine, tech, diplomacy)

**4 How to get there**

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- 1 After school, gain deep proficiency in a foreign or Indian language (French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, etc.).
- 2 Do a BA and MA in that language — e.g. at JNU, EFLU, University of Rajasthan, or Alliance Française/Goethe-Institut.
- 3 Earn language-proficiency certificates (DELFD/DALF, Goethe-Zertifikat, JLPT, HSK).
- 4 Take a specialised diploma/training in interpretation and practise simultaneous and consecutive techniques.
- 5 Build experience through freelance assignments at conferences, courts, hospitals or in tourism, and create a portfolio.
- 6 With experience, apply for panels/jobs at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), embassies, international bodies or large companies.

**MAIN EXAMS**

- DELF/DALF (French language proficiency certification)
- JLPT (Japanese) / HSK (Chinese) language proficiency tests
- Goethe-Zertifikat (German language proficiency certification)

## 5 Where to study

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### GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय — विदेशी भाषा विभाग — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.uniraj.ac.in/>)
- जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय (JNU) — भाषा, साहित्य एवं संस्कृति अध्ययन संस्थान — New Delhi (<https://www.jnu.ac.in/sllcs>)
- अंग्रेज़ी एवं विदेशी भाषा विश्वविद्यालय (EFLU) — Hyderabad (<https://efluniversity.ac.in/>)
- इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय (IGNOU) — भाषा कार्यक्रम — All-India / Online (<https://www.ignou.ac.in/>)

### PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- एलायंस फ्रांसेज़ द जयपुर (फ्रेंच) — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://jaipur.afindia.org/learn-french/>)
- गोएथे-इंस्टिट्यूट / मैक्स मूलर भवन (जर्मन) — New Delhi & other cities (<https://www.goethe.de/ins/in/en/spr.html>)

### ONLINE

- स्किल इंडिया डिजिटल हब — Online (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)
- गोएथे-इंस्टिट्यूट ऑनलाइन जर्मन कोर्स — Online (<https://www.goethe.de/ins/in/en/spr/kur.html>)

### FEEES

At government universities (JNU, EFLU, University of Rajasthan) language diploma/degree fees are very low — often ₹3,000–20,000 per year. Level-based courses (A1–C2) at Alliance Française or Goethe-Institut cost roughly ₹10,000–25,000 per level, and specialised interpretation training can cost more.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- SJE राजस्थान छात्रवृत्ति (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- DAAD (जर्मनी) भारतीय छात्रों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति (<https://www.daad.in/en/>)

## 6 What the work is like

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### WHERE YOU WORK

International conferences and summits, the Ministry of External Affairs and embassies, courts, hospitals, tourist sites, media, and offices of multinational companies.

**WORK CULTURE**

Work is often project/assignment-based and freelance, with travel and irregular hours common. At conferences, simultaneous interpreters work in booths in pairs, taking turns. Confidentiality, punctuality and impartiality are the backbone of this profession.

**WHO HIRES**

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the PMO and the Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
- International conference organisers and global bodies such as the United Nations
- Multinational companies, BPO/KPO firms and the tourism and hospitality industry
- Foreign embassies, consulates and high commissions
- Courts, law firms and hospitals (medical/legal interpreting)
- Media houses, language-service agencies and independent (freelance) clients

**DEMAND (2026)**

India's growing global diplomacy, hostings like the G20, foreign investment and tourism are rapidly increasing demand for skilled interpreters — especially in languages such as Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Spanish, Arabic and Korean. Interpreters skilled in rare languages for conference, court and medical settings command very high fees. Despite machine translation, the role of tone, context and trust in live human interpreting makes this a durable career.

## 7 Career growth

- 1 Trainee / Assistant Interpreter
- 2 Freelance Interpreter (conference/court/medical)
- 3 Senior Conference / Diplomatic Interpreter
- 4 Chief Interpreter / Head of Language Services or Independent Consultant

**EARNINGS**

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Starting     | ₹20,000–35,000/माह      |
| Mid level    | ₹40,000–70,000/माह      |
| Senior level | ₹1,00,000–2,50,000+/माह |

Per Indeed, an interpreter in India earns an average of about ₹5.2 lakh per year (≈₹44,000/month). Earnings are limited at entry level, but experienced conference and diplomatic interpreters can earn ₹15,000–40,000 per day. Expertise in rare languages such as Chinese, Japanese or Arabic and in specialised fields can raise income substantially.

## 8 The good parts · The challenges

### The good parts

- Respected chance to work with top leaders, conferences and global forums
- Very good earnings and freelance freedom with rare languages and expertise
- Constant learning through travel, new cultures and varied subjects

### The challenges

- Live, high-pressure work — a single slip can have big consequences
- Irregular income and assignment-based instability early on
- Demands constant language practice, travel and mental fatigue

## 9 Real-life journeys

### Gurdeep Kaur Chawla

**International simultaneous/diplomatic interpreter (English–Hindi)**

After a master's in English Literature from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, Gurdeep Kaur Chawla trained as a parliamentary interpreter in the Lok Sabha in the 1990s. She went on to become one of the world's most trusted English–Hindi simultaneous interpreters, interpreting in bilateral meetings between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Manmohan Singh and US Presidents Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Her live interpretation of Modi's 2014 UN General Assembly address is preserved in UN records. Her journey shows how command of language, quick thinking and calm neutrality can take an interpreter to the world stage.

Global Indian · <https://www.globalindian.com/story/cover-story/gurdeep-kaur-chawla-the-diplomatic-interpreter-world-leaders-trust/>

### R. Madhu Sudan

**The PM's Mandarin (Chinese) interpreter, Indian Foreign Service (IFS)**

R. Madhu Sudan, an engineer from Anna University, Chennai, is a 2007-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer whose first posting was at the Indian mission in Beijing, where he mastered Mandarin. Fluent in Tamil, English, Hindi and Malayalam as well as Chinese, he became Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mandarin interpreter and accompanied him at the first informal summit in Wuhan in 2018. His example shows how deep proficiency in a difficult foreign language can place even an engineer at the very centre of the nation's highest diplomacy.

ThePrint · <https://theprint.in/india/all-the-pms-interpreters-the-select-ifs-officers-who-translate-and-keep-many-secrets/310930/>

## 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.

- Translator
- Dubbing Artist / Voice Actor
- Lexicographer

## 11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Interpreter — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%a6%e0%a5%81%e0%a4%ad%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b7%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%af%e0%a4%be/>
2. Indeed – Interpreter salary in India (2026) — <https://in.indeed.com/career/interpreter/salaries>
3. ThePrint – The PM's interpreters (IFS officers) — <https://theprint.in/india/all-the-pms-interpreters-the-select-ifs-officers-who-translate-and-keep-many-secrets/310930/>
4. Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan India — <https://www.goethe.de/ins/in/en/spr.html>
5. National Scholarship Portal — <https://scholarships.gov.in/>



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[career.gsssjethantri.in](https://career.gsssjethantri.in)