



कोषकार

A Lexicographer is a language specialist who compiles and edits dictionaries — collecting word meanings, pronunciation, etymology (a word's history), usage and example sentences, and recording them with precision. They track...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/lexicographer

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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 Lexicographer is a language specialist who compiles and edits dictionaries — collecting word meanings, pronunciation, etymology (a word's history), usage and example sentences, and recording them with precision. They track newspapers, books, the internet and everyday speech to spot new words, review older senses, and decide which words enter the dictionary. It is a research-driven craft demanding deep love of language, patience and accuracy, and is vital for monolingual, bilingual and digital dictionaries and for preserving India's languages.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Master's (MA) in a language or Linguistics
Course duration	3-yr Bachelor's + 2-yr Master's
Starting salary	₹18,000–25,000/month
Work mode	Research, editing and desk-based full-time work

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in words, language and the history of meaning
- Keen on preserving languages and building dictionaries
- Enjoy reading, researching and recording fine detail

ABILITIES

- Strong command of language and a deep sense of words
- Logical, analytical thinking and research ability
- Attention to detail, accuracy and long-haul patience

KEY SKILLS

- Deep language knowledge — semantics, grammar and shades of meaning
- Etymology — studying a word's origin and history

- Research, source-gathering and language corpus analysis
- Patience, discipline and focus over long projects
- Using dictionary software and digital tools
- Clarity, precision and neutrality in writing definitions
- Editing, proofreading and cross-checking references

4 How to get there

- 1 Complete Class 12 in any stream; build a strong base in language, literature and writing.
- 2 Do a Bachelor's (BA) in Hindi/English/Sanskrit or another language.
- 3 Earn a Master's (MA) in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics — the core qualification.
- 4 Clear UGC-NET/JRF and specialise via research (M.Phil/PhD) and lexicography.
- 5 Gain experience as an assistant/junior editor in a dictionary project, publisher or language institute (e.g. CIIL).
- 6 With experience, rise to dictionary editor and senior lexicographer.

MAIN EXAMS

- UGC-NET/JRF (Linguistics/Language) — for research and teaching

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- भाषाविज्ञान विभाग, राजस्थान केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय (Department of Linguistics, Central University of Rajasthan) — Ajmer, Rajasthan (<https://curaj.ac.in/departments/department-linguistics>)
- संस्कृत एवं कोशविज्ञान विभाग, डेक्कन कॉलेज (Dept. of Sanskrit & Lexicography, Deccan College) — Pune, Maharashtra
- भारतीय भाषा संस्थान (CIIL – Central Institute of Indian Languages) — Mysuru, Karnataka (<https://ciil.gov.in/>)
- भाषाविज्ञान केंद्र, जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय (Centre for Linguistics, JNU) — New Delhi (<https://www.jnu.ac.in/sllcs/cl>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- अमिटी स्कूल ऑफ़ लिबरल आर्ट्स / भाषा अध्ययन (Amity University) — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.amity.edu/jaipur/>)
- द इंग्लिश एंड फ़ॉरेन लैंग्वेजेज़ यूनिवर्सिटी (EFLU) — Hyderabad (<https://www.efluniversity.ac.in/>)

ONLINE

- सीआईआईएल ऑनलाइन भाषा पाठ्यक्रम (CIIL Online Courses) — Online (<https://courses.ciil.org/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) – भाषाविज्ञान पाठ्यक्रम — Online (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)

FEES

At government universities (Central University of Rajasthan, JNU, Deccan College) an MA in Linguistics is very affordable, roughly ₹5,000–25,000 per year. Private universities can charge about ₹50,000–1,50,000 per year. Many CIIL and SWAYAM online courses are free.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (National Scholarship Portal) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- यूजीसी जूनियर रिसर्च फेलोशिप (UGC-JRF) (https://www.ugc.gov.in/Fellowship/stu_Fellowship1)
- सीआईआईएल / भारतीय भाषा संस्थान फेलोशिप एवं परियोजनाएँ (<https://ciil.gov.in/>)
- सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग, राजस्थान छात्रवृत्ति (SJE Rajasthan) (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Dictionary publishers (e.g. Oxford University Press India), language institutes (CIIL, Sahitya Akademi), university linguistics departments, government language projects, and digital-dictionary and language-technology companies.

WORK CULTURE

It is largely a quiet, desk-based research role — reading, gathering sources, writing definitions and editing. Hours are usually regular (Mon–Fri); projects run long, so patience matters. The field also suits persons with disabilities and remote/home-based work.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Dictionary publishers — Oxford University Press India (OUP), Collins, Rajpal & Sons | • Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and the Bharatvani project |
| • Sahitya Akademi, Hindi Shabdsagar and government language commissions/directorates | • Universities and research institutes (linguistics departments) |
| • Digital-dictionary and language-tech firms (e.g. Shabdkosh, Arvind Lexicon) | • Textbook boards, translation agencies and media editing desks |

DEMAND (2026)

This is a specialist, niche career, but India's linguistic diversity and projects like Digital India and Bharatvani are raising demand for bilingual and digital dictionaries. Machine translation, AI language models and app-based dictionaries are creating fresh openings for skilled lexicographers and language experts, especially in regional Indian languages.

7 Career growth

- 1 Assistant / Junior Lexicographer
- 2 Lexicographer / Dictionary Editor
- 3 Senior Lexicographer / Editorial Manager
- 4 Chief Editor / Project Director

EARNINGS

Starting	₹18,000–25,000/माह
Mid level	₹35,000–55,000/माह
Senior level	₹70,000–1,20,000+/माह

Per India's National Career Service (NCS), a lexicographer earns roughly ₹15,000–40,000/month. Large publishers (OUP), research institutes, senior editorial roles and university teaching (UGC pay scale) pay considerably more. Freelance and digital-dictionary projects can add extra income.

8 The good parts · The challenges**The good parts**

- Fulfilling, intellectual and respected work for language lovers
- A lasting contribution to preserving India's languages and knowledge
- A calm, stable work setting, often possible from home/remote

The challenges

- A niche field with few posts and stiff competition
- Long, slow projects — demanding much patience and focus
- Modest entry pay; higher income needs experience and specialisation

9 Real-life journeys

Arvind Kumar

Lexicographer; creator of 'Samantar Kosh', the first Hindi thesaurus

Journalist and editor Arvind Kumar (1930–2021) left his job in 1978 to chase a near-impossible dream — building the first Hindi thesaurus. After nearly twenty years of relentless work, patience and research, 'Samantar Kosh' appeared in 1996, the first thesaurus in any modern Indian language. He went on to compile the bilingual 'Penguin English-Hindi/Hindi-English Thesaurus & Dictionary' and the digital 'Arvind Lexicon', holding over a million word-entries. His story shows how deep love of words and unbroken dedication can earn national recognition as a lexicographer.

Wikipedia · [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arvind_Kumar_\(lexicographer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arvind_Kumar_(lexicographer))

Kusum Kumar

Co-lexicographer; co-author of 'Samantar Kosh' and the Arvind Lexicon

Kusum Kumar was Arvind Kumar's life partner and co-author of many of his lexicographic works. Vast collections like Samantar Kosh and the Arvind Lexicon spanned twenty years, requiring lakhs of words to be gathered, classified, carded and checked — patient, exacting work in which she was an equal partner. In a field where few women lexicographers are on record, her contribution shows that women too can play a leading, named role in dictionary-making. (Note: she is documented chiefly as Arvind Kumar's co-author.)

Wikipedia · [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arvind_Kumar_\(lexicographer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arvind_Kumar_(lexicographer))

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.

- Interpreter
- Translator
- Dubbing Artist / Voice Actor

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Lexicographer (कोषकार) — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%95%e0%a5%8b%e0%a4%b7%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0/>
2. Arunachal Education Dept Career Guidance – Lexicographer — <https://education.arunachal.gov.in/career/career/lexicographer/>
3. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru — <https://ciil.gov.in/>
4. Sahapedia – Lexicography in India — <http://www.sahapedia.org/lexicography-india>



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