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करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

भाषाविद्

A Linguist studies human language scientifically — the structure of words, sounds (phonetics/phonology), grammar, meaning, and how language connects with society and the mind. Some linguists do fieldwork to document and preserve...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/linguist

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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)



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 Linguist studies human language scientifically — the structure of words, sounds (phonetics/phonology), grammar, meaning, and how language connects with society and the mind. Some linguists do fieldwork to document and preserve endangered and tribal languages; some build dictionaries and grammars; and many work in 'computational linguistics', creating machine translation, voice assistants, chatbots and AI language models. In India, government projects like Bhashini and the language teams of companies such as Google and Microsoft are making this a fast-growing, well-paid field.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	BA then MA in Linguistics after Class 12 (PhD for research)
Course duration	BA 3 years + MA 2 years
Starting salary	₹25,000–45,000/month (higher in NLP)
Work mode	Teaching, research, field documentation and tech/AI language work

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep curiosity about languages, words and sounds
- Keen to combine technology, AI and language to build new things
- Enjoy understanding dialects and cultures of different communities

ABILITIES

- Pattern recognition and logical, analytical thinking
- Patience for fieldwork, note-taking and data analysis
- A sharp ear and ability to pick up languages quickly

KEY SKILLS

- Knowledge of phonetics, morphology, syntax and semantics
- Transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- Computational linguistics/NLP and programming such as Python
- Research writing, translation and clear presentation
- Fieldwork, language documentation and conducting interviews
- Good command of at least two or three languages
- Building and annotating dictionaries, corpora and language datasets

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 in any stream (Arts/Science/Commerce); a strong grip on language and maths/logic helps.
- 2 Do a BA in Linguistics/a language or any graduation; many places admit via CUET (UG).
- 3 Take admission to MA Linguistics/Computational Linguistics through CUET (PG).
- 4 For teaching and research, clear UGC NET/JRF (Linguistics) and pursue a PhD.
- 5 For the tech/AI route, learn Python, machine learning and NLP, and do projects and internships.
- 6 Choose a career path by interest — field documentation, translation, or a company language team.

MAIN EXAMS

- CUET (UG) — for BA admission to central universities
- CUET (PG) — for MA Linguistics/Computational Linguistics admission
- UGC NET/JRF (Linguistics) — for assistant professor and research fellowship

5 Where to study**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES**

- Central University of Rajasthan — Department of Linguistics — Ajmer, Rajasthan (<https://curaj.ac.in/departments/departments-linguistics>)
- University of Rajasthan — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.uniraj.ac.in/>)
- Jawaharlal Nehru University — Centre for Linguistics — New Delhi (<https://www.jnu.ac.in/>)

- The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) — Hyderabad (<https://www.efluniversity.ac.in/>)
- Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) — Mysuru, Karnataka (<https://www.ciil.org/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Deccan College Post-Graduate & Research Institute — Pune, Maharashtra (<https://deccancollegepune.ac.in/>)
- IIT Madras / IIIT Hyderabad — कम्प्यूटेशनल लिंग्विस्टिक्स व एनएलपी शोध — Chennai / Hyderabad (<https://ai4bharat.iitm.ac.in/>)

ONLINE

- SWAYAM — भाषाविज्ञान व एनएलपी ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम — Online (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- NPTEL — नैचुरल लैंग्वेज प्रोसेसिंग कोर्स — Online (<https://nptel.ac.in/>)

FEES

At government universities (Central University of Rajasthan, JNU, EFLU, UNIRAJ), BA/MA Linguistics fees are very low — roughly ₹5,000–25,000 per year. Private institutes and specialised NLP/data-science courses can cost from ₹50,000 to several lakhs. SWAYAM/NPTEL online courses are often free.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- UGC NET-JRF फेलोशिप (शोध हेतु) (<https://www.ugc.gov.in/>)
- SJE Rajasthan Scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study — Arts & Humanities Scholarships (<https://www.buddy4study.com/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Universities and colleges, research institutes (CIIL, language institutes), field sites and tribal areas, publishing and translation companies, and the language and AI teams of tech firms like Google and Microsoft.

WORK CULTURE

Academia offers flexible hours but constant reading/writing pressure; fieldwork means travel and long stays with communities; tech/NLP jobs are team-based, project- and deadline-driven office or remote work.

WHO HIRES

- Universities, colleges and linguistics departments
- Language/voice teams at Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple
- Publishing, translation and localisation companies
- Government bodies — CIIL, Bhashini, NCERT, Sahitya Akademi
- AI/NLP and voice startups (like AI4Bharat, Sarvam AI, Gnani.ai)
- Language documentation NGOs and museum/archive projects

DEMAND (2026)

The rapid rise of AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) has pushed demand for linguists to new highs — chatbots, voice assistants, machine translation and AI models for Indian languages all need language experts. India's Bhashini project works across 22 scheduled languages, while language documentation and teaching also offer stable roles. Computational linguistics is the fastest-growing and best-paid part of this field.

7 Career growth

- 1 Research Assistant / Junior Linguist / Linguistic Annotator
- 2 Linguist / Computational Linguist / Assistant Professor
- 3 Senior Linguist / NLP Lead / Associate Professor
- 4 Professor / Principal Scientist / Head of Language Division

EARNINGS

Starting	₹25,000–45,000/माह
Mid level	₹60,000–1,20,000/माह
Senior level	₹1,50,000–2,50,000+/माह

In pure linguistics/teaching the start is moderate (about ₹25,000–45,000/month) and rises at professor level. Computational linguistics/NLP pays far more — per upGrad, NLP engineers earn about ₹5–10 lakh/year at entry, ₹10–19.5 lakh/year mid-level, and ₹26–29 lakh/year at senior level. City, skills and experience cause wide variation.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Fast-growing, well-paid opportunities from the AI/NLP boom
- Meaningful, intellectual work preserving languages and culture
- Many diverse paths — teaching, research, tech and translation

The challenges

- Good jobs often need long study up to MA/PhD
- Entry pay in pure academia/documentation can be limited
- Fieldwork demands travel, tough conditions and patience

9 Real-life journeys

Pushpak Bhattacharyya

Professor, IIT Bombay; pioneer of Indian NLP and President of the ACL (2016–17)

Born in Shillong, Pushpak Bhattacharyya became a computer science professor at IIT Bombay and, by bridging language and computers, helped establish 'computational linguistics' in India. He founded the CFILT lab, built multilingual word resources like IndoWordNet, worked on machine translation, wrote over 350 research papers and mentored more than 300 students. In 2016–17 he became President of the prestigious Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) and was called the 'Godfather of Indian NLP'. His story shows how a love of language, joined with technology, can build a world-class career.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pushpak_Bhattacharyya

Anvita Abbi

Linguist and former JNU professor; documenter of the Great Andamanese languages, Padma Shri (2013)

Anvita Abbi is a renowned Indian linguist who taught at the Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, researching minority and tribal languages. Through the 'Vanishing Voices of the Great Andamanese' project she did fieldwork to document the endangered languages of the Andamans and established that Great Andamanese is a distinct language family. She authored or edited 19 books, including a grammar of Great Andamanese and an English–Great Andamanese–Hindi dictionary. Awarded the Padma Shri in 2013 and the Linguistic Society of America's Kenneth Hale Award in 2015, she inspires every girl who wants to make language preservation a career.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anvita_Abbi

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Linguist — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%ad%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b7%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%a6%e0%a5%8d/>
2. Central University of Rajasthan – Department of Linguistics — <https://curaj.ac.in/departments/department-linguistics>
3. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru — <https://www.ciil.org/>
4. Bhashini – Government of India's language-AI mission — <https://bhashini.gov.in/>
5. upGrad – NLP Engineer Salary — <https://www.upgrad.com/blog/nlp-engineer-salary-india-freshers-experienced/>
6. PayScale – Linguist Salary India — <https://www.payscale.com/research/IN/Job=Linguist/Salary>



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