



SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

मर्चेन्ट नेवी

In the merchant navy you run global sea trade as a deck officer, marine engineer or rating on cargo ships, tankers and passenger vessels. It is a career of high earnings and adventure.



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/gen-6759

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri · ब्लॉक समदड़ी · बालोतरा (Block Samdari · Balotra)

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सुशील कुमार शर्मा

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

In the merchant navy you run global sea trade as a deck officer, marine engineer or rating on cargo ships, tankers and passenger vessels. It is a career of high earnings and adventure.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	12th PCM + IMU CET; ratings route possible after 10th
Work mode	Months-long contracts at sea, shift duty; then long leave
Demand	High - global officer shortage; Indian seafarers in demand
Top earning	Captain/Chief Engineer: Rs 4-8 lakh+/month

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Thrill of the sea, ships and travel
- Interest in machines and technology
- Leading and taking responsibility

ABILITIES

- Physical and mental toughness
- Ability to stay away from home for long periods
- Calm decision-making under pressure

KEY SKILLS

- Navigation and reading sea charts
- Safety and emergency procedures
- Teamwork and discipline
- Knowledge of ship machinery and engines
- Good English and radio communication
- Strong grasp of maths and physics

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English; check eyesight and medical standards.
- 2 Clear IMU CET for B.Sc Nautical Science/B.Tech Marine Engineering/DNS.
- 3 After 10th, you can also join as crew via a GP rating course.
- 4 Complete sea time as a cadet.
- 5 Pass DG Shipping competency exams to rise from second mate to captain.

MAIN EXAMS

- IMU CET
- DG Shipping Certificate of Competency exams

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Indian Maritime University (Chennai and other campuses) — Chennai, Tamil Nadu (<https://www.imu.edu.in>)
- T.S. Chanakya (IMU Navi Mumbai campus) — Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- IMU Kolkata and Kochi campuses — Kolkata/Kochi
- CIFNET — Kochi, Kerala

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Tolani Maritime Institute — Pune, Maharashtra
- HIMT (Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training) — Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- AMET University — Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- International Maritime Institute — Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

FEES

Course fees range from about Rs 2,000 to 8 lakh; government institutes like IMU are cheaper than private academies. Company-sponsored cadetships can cut costs.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- Buddy4Study (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

- Vidya Lakshmi education loans (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Cargo ships, oil-gas tankers, container and passenger vessels; later, ports and shore offices of shipping companies.

WORK CULTURE

Shift duty at sea for months away from home, harsh weather and strict discipline; long leave follows each contract.

WHO HIRES

- Shipping Corporation of India
- Anglo-Eastern and Fleet Management
- Synergy Maritime
- Global lines like Maersk and MSC
- Great Eastern Shipping
- Cruise lines

DEMAND (2026)

Most world trade moves by sea and there is a global officer shortage; demand for trained Indian seafarers is high in 2026, but medical fitness is mandatory.

7 Career growth

- 1 Deck Cadet / Engine Cadet
- 2 Third Officer / Fourth Engineer
- 3 Second Officer / Third Engineer
- 4 Chief Officer / Second Engineer
- 5 Captain (Master) / Chief Engineer

EARNINGS

Starting	₹25,000-60,000
Mid level	₹1,00,000-2,50,000
Senior level	₹4,00,000-8,00,000+

Monthly; foreign lines may pay in dollars with tax benefits, but pay usually accrues only while sailing. 2026 levels, indicative.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Very high earnings at a young age
- Chance to travel the world
- Months of leave after each contract

The challenges

- Months away from family and loneliness
- Harsh weather and risks at sea
- Strict medical standards; contract-based employment

9 Real-life journeys

Radhika Menon

First woman captain of the Indian Merchant Navy

From Kodungallur, Kerala, Radhika began as a radio officer and became the Indian Merchant Navy's first woman captain. After rescuing seven fishermen in stormy seas in 2015, she became the world's first woman to win the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

BBC News · <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-38063326>

Sanjay Prashar

Master mariner and founder of VR Maritime

Rising from Kangra district of Himachal, Sanjay Prashar became a captain and then built his own shipping company, VR Maritime. In 2020 he personally funded the repatriation of 58 Indian fishermen stranded in Iran.

Merchant Navy DECODED (YouTube) · https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBIR-_YNzDg

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance: Merchant Navy — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%b0%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%9a%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%82%e0%a4%9f-%e0%a4%a8%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%b5%e0%a5%80-merchant-navy/>
2. Directorate General of Shipping — <https://www.dgshipping.gov.in>
3. Indian Maritime University (IMU) — <https://www.imu.edu.in>
4. National Career Service (NCS) — <https://www.ncs.gov.in>



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