



# SAARTHI - सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल · Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट · CAREER SHEET

## छायाकार (सिनेमैटोग्राफर)

A cinematographer (Director of Photography) leads the camera and lighting crew on a film or series. Following the director's vision, they choose the camera, lenses, filters and lighting to realise each shot artistically and...



### Scan for everything on this career

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

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

### राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

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

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



#### 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

A cinematographer (Director of Photography) leads the camera and lighting crew on a film or series. Following the director's vision, they choose the camera, lenses, filters and lighting to realise each shot artistically and technically.

## 2 At a glance

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Minimum qualification | Degree/diploma in Film/Media |
| Duration              | 3–4 years                    |
| Avg. salary           | ₹20,000–1,50,000/month       |
| Work mode             | Sets/locations, shift-based  |

## 3 What you need

### INTERESTS

- Interest in visuals and creative imagination
- Films and storytelling
- Passion for cameras and technology

### ABILITIES

- Creative and visual imagination
- Attention to fine detail
- A unique way of seeing the world

### KEY SKILLS

- Camera operation
- Framing and composition
- Colour and grading sense
- Lighting
- Lens and exposure knowledge
- Coordinating with team and director

## 4 How to get there

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- 1 Pass 10+2 in any stream.
- 2 Do a Bachelor's (BSc/BA) in Filmmaking/Mass Media.
- 3 Or take a cinematography diploma (FTII, etc.).
- 4 Optionally do a Master's in Film Studies.
- 5 Gain on-set experience as an assistant cinematographer.

### MAIN EXAMS

- FTII JET (Joint Entrance Test)
- SRFTI entrance exam

## 5 Where to study

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### GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) — Pune (<https://www.ftii.ac.in>)
- Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI) — Kolkata (<https://srfti.ac.in>)
- University of Mumbai — Mumbai (<https://mu.ac.in>)
- Biju Patnaik Film & Television Institute — Cuttack

### PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Singhanian University — Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan
- Whistling Woods International — Mumbai
- Asian Academy of Film & Television — Noida/Delhi

### ONLINE

- NPTEL-SWAYAM (Cinematography) — Online (<https://onlinecourses.nptel.ac.in>)
- Udemy - Cinematography — Online (<https://www.udemy.com/topic/cinematography/>)
- IGNOU / VMOU कोटा (दूरस्थ) — Online (<https://www.ignou.ac.in>)

### FEES

Course fees are roughly ₹44,000–24,00,000 and vary widely by institute.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- National Scholarship Portal (<https://www.scholarships.gov.in>)
- Buddy4Study (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)
- Vidya Lakshmi (Education Loan) (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>)

**6 What the work is like**

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**WHERE YOU WORK**

Media and entertainment groups, production houses, film studios and advertising agencies.

**WORK CULTURE**

Work indoors or outdoors depending on the shoot; hours are shift-based and can be irregular. Opportunities exist for persons with disabilities.

**WHO HIRES**

- |                                            |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| • Film production houses                   | • OTT platforms (Netflix, Prime, Hotstar) |
| • TV channels and studios                  | • Advertising agencies                    |
| • Web-series and digital content companies | • Freelance / independent projects        |

**DEMAND (2026)**

The expansion of OTT, advertising and regional cinema is driving strong demand for skilled cinematographers in 2026.

**7 Career growth**

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- 1 Assistant Cinematographer
- 2 Cinematographer (DOP)
- 3 Assistant Director
- 4 Director

## EARNINGS

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Starting     | ₹20,000    |
| Mid level    | ₹60,000    |
| Senior level | ₹1,50,000+ |

Top cinematographers earn much more per project; income depends on experience and projects.

## 8 The good parts · The challenges

### The good parts

- Creative, visual art-based work
- Chance to work on notable films with artists
- Path towards direction

### The challenges

- Irregular and long working hours
- Unstable income early on
- Heavy equipment and physical effort

## 9 Real-life journeys

### Savita Singh

**Cinematographer & Director**

Savita Singh graduated in cinematography from FTII and served as director of photography on films such as 'Hawaizaada' and 'Ventilator'. She is a founding member of the Indian Women Cinematographers' Collective (IWCC).

IWCC · <https://iwcc.in/member/savita-singh/>

### Santosh Sivan

**World-renowned Cinematographer (ASC, ISC)**

Santosh Sivan is one of India's most celebrated cinematographers, with credits including 'Roja', 'Dil Se' and 'The Terrorist'. A member of ASC and ISC, he received the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute in 2024.

Wikipedia · [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santosh\\_Sivan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santosh_Sivan)

## 10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance – Cinematographer — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%9b%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%af%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0-%e0%a4%b8%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%a8%e0%a5%87%e0%a4%ae%e0%a5%88%e0%a4%9f%e0%a5%8b%e0%a4%97%e0%a5%8d%e0%a4%b0%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%ab%e0%a4%b0-cinema/>
2. Salary data – PayScale — <https://www.payscale.com/research/IN/Job=Cinematographer/Salary>
3. FTII Pune — <https://www.ftii.ac.in>
4. Indian Women Cinematographers' Collective — <https://iwcc.in>



### And 770+ more careers — the whole portal

Interest and aptitude tests, government jobs, skill courses and a CV builder — free, no login, and it works offline.

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